Coloradan

Alumni Magazine Spring 2024

Water in the West

Increasing demand and declining rainfall shape the future of this vital resource.

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Alumni Association
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

NOW

DECEMBER 2023

Engineering professor **Matt Morris** (CivEngr'99; MS'02), pictured center, and his family lost everything they owned along with their home of 16 years in the 2021 Marshall Fire in Superior, Colorado. Nearly two years later, the family celebrated Christmas in the same spot — in their newly constructed house.

Morris, two of his students — **George Kurtz** (ArchEngr'24), pictured left, and **Daniel Donado Quintero** (CivEngr'22; PhD'26), pictured right — and volunteers constructed more than 80% of the home themselves.

"The experience changed my character and my understanding of commitment, discipline and accountability," Quintero told the engineering school.

Jesse Petersen

FEATURES

COVER Fish bones found along the shore of Neenoshe Reservoir in Eads, Colorado, which was experiencing declining water levels and increasing temperatures in September 2022. Photo by RJ Sangosti.

ABOVE Charles W. Hull (EngrPhys'61), inventor of 3D printing, was named a 2023 recipient of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. Photo by Ryan K. Morris.

DEPARTMENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE

It was June in Utah, and the midday heat was blistering. The AC on "La Tortuga Azul" — the pet name for my family's lifted #vanlife 2002 Safari — struggled to keep the heat at bay. This road trip took us from the San Rafael Swell to Capitol Reef National Park and the northern end of Lake Powell. Expecting summer crowds, houseboat revelers and water jets, I was surprised by the dusty tributaries, abandoned boats and roadside communities turning to ghost towns. After a few tries, the map confirmed we were not lost — instead the water had nearly disappeared.

Water in the West is a complex, evolving and non-linear system as water levels rise and fall with each year's rainfall. May these images in our photo feature pique your curiosity and lead to a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of water access, justice and human rights.

And don't miss profiles on the class of 2024, CU's resident bee expert and a bone archaeologist.

Maria Kuntz

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Can Cloud Seeding Stem the Water Crisis?

Katja Friedrich is a professor and associate chair in CU Boulder's Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences department. She is known for her work in cloud seeding, a process used to generate precipitation from existing clouds. In 2017, she helped conduct the National Science Foundation-funded project SNOWIE (Seeded and Natural Orographic Wintertime Clouds: the Idaho Experiment), which was the first experiment to accurately measure the amount of snowfall caused by cloud seeding.

Katja Friedrich researches the effects of cloud seeding.

How do you best describe cloud seeding? Cloud seeding has been around for almost 100 years as a way to get more rain or precipitation out of a cloud. It was first discovered in a lab at MIT in 1946 that something similar to ice's crystalline structure, like silver iodide, could be put in supercooled liquid to freeze the drops and create ice. People then applied this method to real clouds to generate precipitation. When we seed wintertime orographic clouds, we target clouds that contain supercooled liquid water, which are tiny water droplets that are too light to fall to the ground. After we seed these clouds with silver iodide, the droplets start to freeze into ice particles. These ice particles continue to grow and collect other droplets and ice particles and eventually form snow that is heavy enough to fall to the ground.

Does it work? A problem with cloud seeding has always been showing how much more precipitation it can generate. We know it works because it works in the lab. However, we need to get the seeding material to the area that contains high amounts of supercooled liquid. It's difficult to know where those areas are in a cloud, because we don't have good measurements of supercooled liquid, and it's difficult to fly in those areas because of aircraft icing. When we seed clouds, we often have to rely on numerical models which have a certain level of uncertainty. Also, once we seeded the clouds, we don't really know how much precipitation a cloud would have produced without seeding.

The other problem is that nature can be pretty efficient in producing precipitation, but not always. That's why with our SNOWIE experiment in 2017 we wanted to gather enough information to run more accurate numerical models. Our idea was that because the models are now accurate enough to reproduce what's going on in the cloud during cloud seeding, we could then run simulations with and without cloud seeding and see the precipitation produced for both. In SNOWIE, we were also able to show with our seeding line observations the entire chain of events from once we put the silver iodide into the cloud to how much snow we produced. No one had done that before.

How much precipitation can one cloud-seeding event produce? We showed that you can produce additional snowfall. Based on our study that included seeding during three days, the total amount of water generated by cloud seeding was about the equivalent of the volume of water needed to fill 50 Olympic-sized swimming pools in 20 minutes over an area of about 7,500 square kilometers.

What are some concerns you hear about cloud seeding? The reason we are cloud seeding is because of water scarcity. It is becoming really important to show that we can produce some precipitation. Cloud seeding is not the holy grail if you think about how to generate water or mitigate droughts. But this is an important part because you can maybe produce additional water. I give this example of Lake Mead. Right now, the water levels are so low that hydropower can't be run at full capacity. If we could cloud seed and raise the water levels just a little bit higher so we can still generate hydropower, this would have massive effects on large populations.

The downside is putting materials in the atmosphere. Other people say we're manipulating the weather, which is true. The other argument I say is if you get into your car or are flying on a commercial airplane, you are also manipulating the weather. Every airplane that flies through a cloud of super cold liquid is doing cloud seeding because they're putting particles in the cloud that can generate snowfall. So people need to be aware that we are manipulating the weather and the climate with everything we are doing.

> "WE ARE MANIPULATING THE WEATHER AND THE CLIMATE WITH EVERYTHING WE ARE DOING."

What is one of the most extreme situations in which you've conducted research? I have gone out for one hurricane, Hurricane Ike in 2008, when I had just started working at CU. This was one of the most amazing things that I've seen in respect to the weather. We were on these bridges and you saw the water coming in and everything was flooding around us, and we were in what felt like a carwash. We even deployed through the eyewall — for one hour it was totally quiet, and you could hear birds flying. Then came another five or six hours of this carwash feeling. The hurricane passed, and within half an hour you could see how the water trails out. And then I saw emergency boats coming in looking for people. ... As for tornadoes, I have to say they look better on TV than in real life.

What else are you working on right now? I'm looking at Colorado's Front Range and other high plateau regions where thunderstorms produce large amounts of hail — so much that we call these hail-accumulating thunderstorms "snowplowable hail." We built a warning system for the weather service, so they know which thunderstorms are producing a lot of hail that will be dumped on the ground. But also we are trying to understand why that happens and whether there is a way we can forecast it perhaps an hour ahead of time so we can coordinate resources like snow plows, which aren't always readily available in the summertime.

What do you do outside of work? When I'm not working, I like to ski. I like to mountain bike. I have two kids, so we are doing a lot of outdoorsy stuff. We like to camp. We like to travel. That's what we do — things outside.

INTERVIEW BY CHRISTIE SOUNART (JOUR'12)

Matt Tyrie

CAMPUSnews

Should Your Child Take Melatonin?

CU Boulder study says long-term effects and safety of the supplement are unknown.

Some young children, including preschoolers, routinely take melatonin as a supplement for sleep, with nearly one in five school-aged children and preteens also taking it regularly, according to CU Boulder researchers. The hormone is produced naturally in a person's pineal gland to signal sleep for the body, but chemically synthesized and animal-derived versions are also readily available in the United States.

This concerns CU Boulder researchers, who conducted a survey of melatonin use published by *JAMA Pediatrics* in November 2023. They found that use among children has soared since 2017, when only about 1% of parents reported that their children used it. In their paper, the authors note a lack of safety and efficacy data surrounding the products, which are not fully regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

"We are not saying that melatonin is necessarily harmful to children. But much more research needs to be done before we can state with confidence that it is safe for kids to be taking long-term," said lead author Lauren Hartstein, a postdoctoral fellow in the CU Sleep and Development Lab at CU Boulder.

In a previous study, researchers at Cambridge Health Alliance analyzed 25 melatonin gummy products and found that 22 contained different amounts of melatonin than indicated on the label, or even contained other unlisted substances such as serotonin.

CU researchers caution that while melatonin can be used as a short-term option for sleep aid under the guidance of a pediatrician, other options may be a better line of treatment for continued use.

To learn more, visit colorado.edu/today and search "melatonin."

Caregivers should use caution when giving children melatonin.

Polly Noakes

BOULDER BEAT City Water

Ensuring a Reliable Water Supply for the City of Boulder

Boulder County enjoys quality, reliable drinking water with careful planning and preparation.

As I drive up Boulder Canyon with my daughter to ski at Eldora Mountain, I relish pointing out features of Boulder's water supply system that I've had a role in managing for the past 19 years. The hydroelectric plant on the left, the pipeline up on the hillside, the reservoir at the top of the canyon — and Boulder Creek at the heart of it all. Fascinating, right?! She listens to me good-naturedly every time, and I hope one day she comes to appreciate the intricacies that go into providing that clean glass of water she sips every morning.

The Boulder community enjoys a high-quality and reliable drinking water supply due to 150 years of visionary planning. However, as the climate shifts, the challenge of providing clean and reliable water becomes increasingly complex.

Boulder's drinking water originates from alpine lakes, reservoirs and the Boulder Creek headwaters west of the city of Boulder, as well as from the upper Colorado River. Each year, approximately two-thirds of Boulder's water supply comes from Boulder Creek and one-third from the Colorado River. Water from these sources flows via pipes to one of Boulder's two water treatment plants before it is sent to customers for drinking water or irrigation use.

While Boulder's multiple water sources offer flexibility and resilience in the face of climate change and extreme weather events, the city of Boulder is actively pursuing additional ways to secure its water supply.

One way is through protecting our sources to ensure safe and high-quality water. As most of Boulder's water supply comes from outside the city, Boulder partners with many organizations and community members to improve forest health and reduce pollution to creeks and reservoirs.

Other ways include investing in Boulder's water infrastructure (some components are over a century old), promoting water-saving measures — including using water-saving fixtures, fixing irrigation system leaks and landscaping with low-water-use vegetation — and strategic planning. Boulder's Drought Plan, for instance, helps the city respond to water shortages and preserve water for high-priority uses such as human health and safety, maintaining creek flows and trees.

Water management in the western United States is an intriguing puzzle. While I thrive on the challenge, I'm most gratified by the mission of serving a community that prioritizes sustainable use of this precious resource. Through collaboration, innovation and engagement with passionate community members, Boulder is addressing climate challenges to safeguard its water supply for future generations.

BY KIM HUTTON (CHEM, ENVST'98), water resources manager for the City of Boulder.

Courtesy City of Boulder

In fall 2023, **Benny Shendo Jr.** (OrgMgmt'87) — a proud member of New Mexico's Jemez Pueblo tribe — began at CU Boulder part-time while he concluded his New Mexico state senator duties. In March, he joined CU full-time as its first associate vice chancellor for Native American affairs. In his role, he conducts outreach to tribal governments and visits tribal leadership to talk through opportunities, concerns and how the university can partner with Colorado's tribal communities and Native and Indigenous people.

Model: 2018 Samsung Android

Building Partnerships Across Colorado

How soon after waking up do you look at your phone? About 30–40 minutes after I wake up.

Three of your most-used apps: I hardly use any apps! (Am I the only person who doesn't?)

App you wish you had the inner strength to delete: I haven't met one yet that I couldn't delete.

Last person you called: My mom.

Duration of longest call last week: 10 minutes.

Location and description of last selfie: I don't think I've ever taken a selfie!

Does anyone else have your passcode? No.

Oldest photo on your phone: I have a picture of my Jeep, and it's just full of mud — I was way out in Navajo territory after a chapter meeting. In the picture, the mud is grayish brown, and it's just caked on.

What is your lock screen or background image? I don't have anything. Just the standard date and time.

What do you use your phone for most? Business, personal, calls and texts.

Favorite text slang: LOL: I've probably only used it five times ever.

Courtesy Benny Shendo Jr.

Water Purification Through a Straw

A student prototype, PureSip, protects digestive health and the environment.

To help alleviate health issues caused by pathogens in water, a team of CU Boulder mechanical engineering students collaborated on a senior capstone project last spring to create PureSip, a prototype for a water purification system.

Housed inside a bottle lid, PureSip uses ultraviolet LED technology to purify water through a straw as the user drinks — killing 99.9% of germs and eliminating the need for single-use plastic bottles.

To support product adaptability, the bottle lid can be used with common reusable water bottle brands such as Nalgene and Hydro Flask.

The purification process begins when the spout of the bottle lid is flipped open and can continue purifying for a total of 40 minutes before the batteries need to be recharged. With the assumption a user drinks at a certain pace, the team calculated that amount of time to equal 30 liters of water. On average, this would equate to 60 disposable plastic water bottles.

A student invention uses LED technology to kill germs in water.

The PureSip team members — **Jack Figueirinhas** (MechEngr'23), **Jack Isenhart** (MechEngr'23), **Mackenzie Lamoureux** (MechEngr'23), **Ella McQuaid** (MechEngr'23), **Marie Resman** (MechEngr'23) and **Carlos Yosten** (MechEngr'23) — made a point of using lithium-ion polymer batteries because they're rechargeable, have a long battery life and are more compact than other battery options.

The PureSip team pitched their idea at the 2023 New Venture Challenge, a cross-campus program and competition that gives aspiring entrepreneurs a chance to win money to fund a startup. The product received third place in the climate-focused section.

Lamoureux, PureSip's product manager, said last spring, "We hope that our product can help reduce plastic pollution, and more particularly help eliminate the need for single-use plastic bottles." **BY ALLISON NITCH**

Courtesy College of Engineering and Applied Science

CAMPUSnews

DIGITS
2024 Total Solar Eclipse

4/8
Date of eclipse

15
U.S. states will experience total solar eclipse

11:28 a.m.
Time solar eclipse appears in Boulder

4
Fiske Planetarium films related to the total eclipse

1,500
Children participating in Fiske's eclipse outreach program

7,500
Public and K-12 visitors watched the planetarium's eclipse films from May 2023 to January 2024

Consistent Yoga for Good Health

A CU Boulder study found yoga to be very beneficial to those who practice it — when done regularly. The study, which examined both typical yoga classes and those with only stretching, found the benefits of better emotion regulation, self-control, distress tolerance and mindfulness lasted about a week after either type of class.

"One yoga class is not enough to reap long-term health benefits," CU Boulder Institute of Behavioral Science research associate Charleen Gust told *The Denver Post*. Researchers hope further study will determine how often people must practice to experience benefits.

Study Abroad Hits Record Numbers

This spring, the number of CU students studying abroad exceeded the record-setting 900 students studying abroad at the onset of the pandemic in the spring of 2020. Nearly 1,200 students were enrolled to study abroad this spring, with Western Europe serving as the most popular destination. CU Boulder's study abroad program is ranked 15th-largest in the nation.

CU Economist Tackles English Mystery

From 1761 to 1834 the mortality rate of English people dropped from 28 to 25 per 1,000 people, a statistic that has confused historians due to the time's population influx.

"With people coming into cities to work, you would expect, given the level of sanitation they have, that the big killer is water," CU Boulder economics professor Fransica Antman told the BBC in December.

Antman authored a study linking the change to the rise in tea consumption. In 1784, the tea tax went from 119% to 12.5%. Boiling water when making tea, Antman explained, killed off bacteria prevalent in drinking water, thus saving lives. Antman examined the quality of water sources for about 400 parishes in England and determined that the death rate declined even in those parishes with poor water quality due to the high prevalence of tea.

Heard Around Campus

"CU NATURALLY ATTRACTS REALLY OUTSTANDING LEADERS."

– Stefanie Johnson, director of the Center for Leadership, told the *Daily Camera* in January after *Time* magazine and Statista named CU Boulder one of the top 100 best colleges for future leaders.

ARTIFACT Stone Tools

The Mahaffy Cache

In 2008, landscapers dug two feet into the ground of Patrick Mahaffy's backyard, located near Chautauqua Park in Boulder. They unearthed 83 stone tools from a packed hole the size of a shoebox. The cache was about 13,000 years old.

The tools — now called the "Mahaffy Cache" — were most likely left by nomadic hunter-gatherers known as Clovis, who lived in North America toward the end of the last ice age. The most distant tools likely originated in the Uinta Mountains in northeast Utah and traveled with groups of people to Boulder, said anthropology professor Douglas Bamforth, who Mahaffy originally invited to inspect the cache. Others were made from stone found between the Uintas and Boulder.

"One of the things that we have not emphasized as much as other aspects of the cache is how distinct it is," Bamforth said. "It is like many Clovis-age caches in that the stone the tools are made from is from far away, but the diversity of different kinds of tools and artifacts in it is very unusual."

The cache is one of two Clovis collections to undergo a blood protein analysis on the tools, which determined that hunters used them to butcher Ice Age horses, camels, sheep and bears. The tools include knives, blades and flint scraps.

"My favorite is the large biface made from Tiger chert that looks like a double-bitted ax," said Bamforth. "I have never, ever seen another artifact like that."

Glenn Asakawa

First-of-Its-Kind Campus Gaming Lounge

CU Boulder and Alienware, Dell Technologies' gaming brand, opened the university's first dedicated esports and gaming lounge on campus Jan. 25.

A $1.2 million contribution funded the renovation of a 1,275-square-foot space in the University Memorial Center, which houses desktops, gaming laptops, a multiplayer console area and a broadcast studio. The lounge includes spaces for esports athletes and gamers to play, train and compete in competitions around the world.

CU Boulder has more than 5,000 students interacting with 15 gaming-specific student organizations, including esports, video, tabletop, board, role-playing and trading card games.

Patrick Campbell

Honoring Los Seis de Boulder

On May 27, 1974, **Una Jaakola** (Psych'73), **Reyes Martínez** (Law'73) and **Neva Romero** (A&S ex'75) were killed by a car bomb at Chautauqua Park. Forty-eight hours later, a second car bomb killed **Florencio Granado** (A&S ex'73), **Heriberto Terán** (A&S ex'73) and **Francisco Dougherty** at the corner of 28th Street and Canyon Boulevard.

These Chicano movement activists are known as Los Seis de Boulder.

They fought to achieve parity of racial representation within the student body — a need that persists today. This May marks the 50th anniversary of these tragedies, which remain unsolved.

In 2019, **Jasmine Baetz** (MFA'20) designed a sculpture in memory of the six killed. The university installed the Los Seis de Boulder sculpture by the Albert and Vera Ramírez Temporary Building Number 1 and Sewall Hall. It was added to the University Libraries' Rare & Distinctive Collections in 2020.

Chancellor Philip DiStefano noted the sculpture's place in the university archives "will help to provide current and future students, faculty and staff opportunities to learn more about an important chapter of Colorado and university history."

Baetz, now a visiting professor in ceramics at Scripps College and Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California, told *CU Boulder Today* in 2020 that she hoped the community-created project would contribute to a climate in which the university can act with "honor, integrity and accountability toward BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) students, staff and faculty who were and are impacted by systemic racism at CU Boulder."

When the sculpture was made part of the permanent collection three years ago, Baetz said, "It's hard to accept that the killings of Los Seis have been silenced for so long. My hope is that the sculpture's preservation will weaken our institution's historical amnesia around civil rights struggles at CU Boulder."

To recognize Los Seis and their fight for justice, CU Boulder is working to establish an endowed scholarship fund of $750,000 to award six $5,000 scholarships annually, each in the name of a member of Los Seis. Contributions to the fund support CU Boulder students who participate in organizations committed to increasing economic, racial or ethnic representation in CU Boulder's student body.

The BUENO Center for Multicultural Education at CU Boulder administers the Los Seis Memorial Scholarship.

"The Los Seis Memorial Scholarship is about honoring the memory and fight for justice of Los Seis de Boulder, acknowledging the tragic events of the past and aiming to build a future where their courageous sacrifice inspires hope for future students to continue advocating for representation, educational equity and a just and inclusive society," said Tania Hogan, BUENO Center executive director.

Donations to the Los Seis Memorial Scholarship Fund can be made at giving.cu.edu/fund/los-seis-memorial-scholarship-fund. **BY ALLISON NITCH**

This May marks 50 years since the Los Seis de Boulder tragedies.

Glenn Asakawa

Documenting the Change

Photojournalists RJ Sangosti and Elliot Ross, former and current Ted Scripps Fellows at CU Boulder's Center for Environmental Journalism, use photography to show immediate and long-term water concerns throughout the rapidly changing Western landscape. By Kelsey Simpkins

Dead fish line the sun-baked shore of Neenoshe Reservoir in eastern Colorado. Water in the sandy Arkansas River bed inches slowly eastward. Exposed rock, water lines, marooned boats and fresh green growth illustrate dramatic changes to the Colorado River and its tributaries happening at this very moment.

Two Colorado photojournalists on the front lines of Western water's decline have captured these pivotal scenes — and in doing so, RJ Sangosti and Elliot Ross convey the consequences of hundred-year-old legal agreements, showcase what's at stake and start conversations that will shape not only the future of Western water, but the rights of the people who rely on it.

"Drought, climate change and water issues in the West — no matter if it's in the Colorado or Arkansas river basin, it's all tied together," said Sangosti.

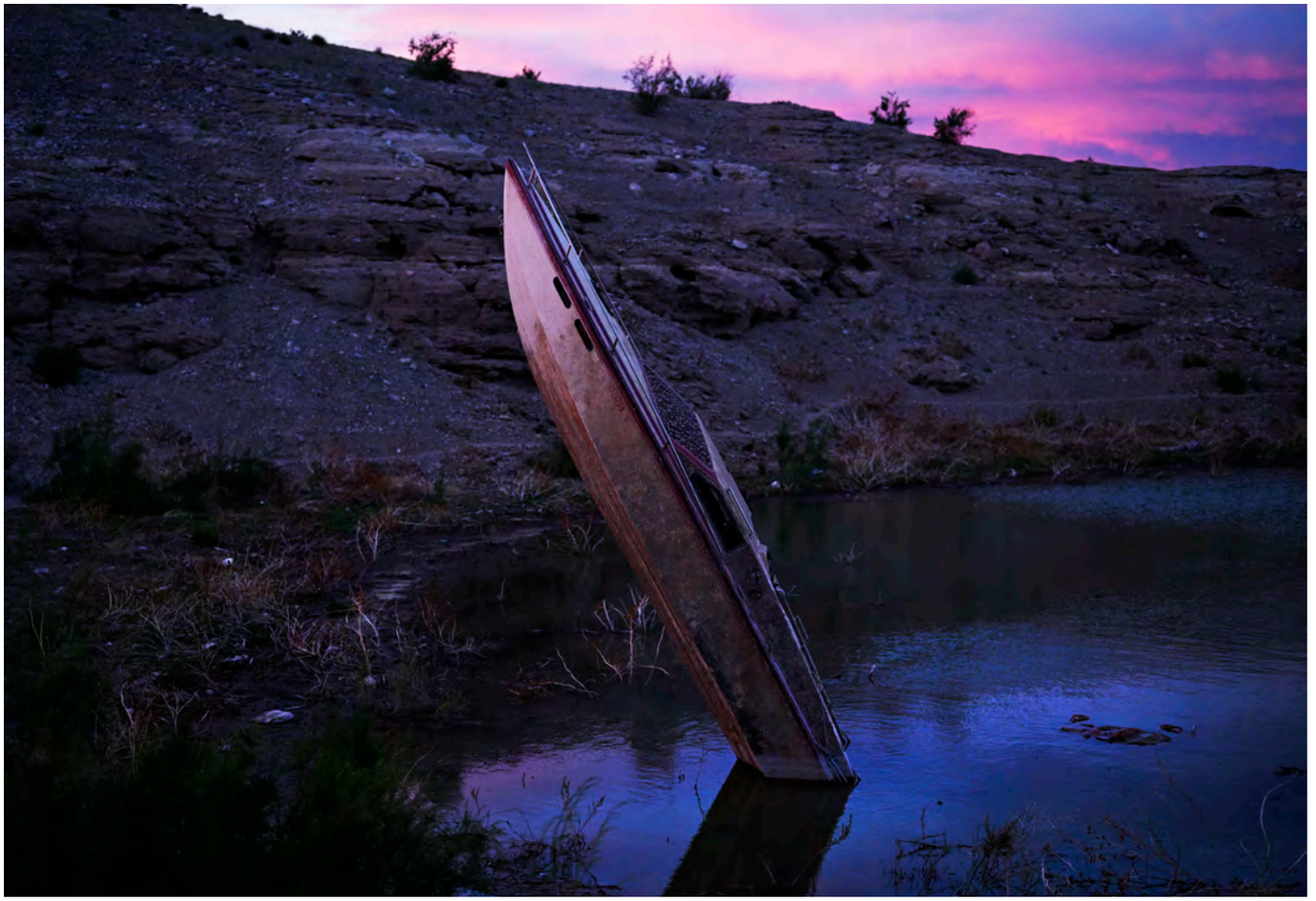
The photographers received Ted Scripps Fellowships, a philanthropy-funded program celebrating over 25 years at CU Boulder's Center for Environmental Journalism. As the region's environment and its resources rapidly change, seeing is believing.

RJ Sangosti

After two decades of covering Colorado breaking news for *The Denver Post*, RJ Sangosti needed a change. In 2020, during his Ted Scripps Fellowship, he found his calling covering Western water issues: "I knew the impact of what was happening on the Colorado River, but the fellowship made it crystal clear that this was the story of my life," he said.

Above: A braided section of the Arkansas River flows east toward Kansas on Oct. 3, 2020 in Pueblo County, Colorado.

RJ Sangosti



Sangosti's transition to documenting Colorado's environment was inspired by his firsthand experiences. Over the years, he saw changes happening in his home state that were affecting places he loved. He wanted to bring a voice to something that his kids would be proud of, and water in the West is "the biggest thing that we all need to be concerned about."

"As climate change affects the West, we're the first ones to see how a major river is affected," he said. And in a dry region heavily reliant on major rivers for its water, communities in the West are also "going to be the first ones to feel it."

"This is a story that I can work on, and should work on, until I don't want to work anymore," Sangosti said.

Left: A sunken boat reemerges at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Nevada, during low water levels in 2023.

Left: Pelicans gather on a small island exposed by low water levels in 2020 at John Martin Reservoir in Hasty, Colorado. In 2019, Colorado and Kansas agreed to provide an additional water source to feed the reservoir, which the Colorado Parks and Wildlife calls a conservation pool. It took 40 years for this agreement to come to fruition.

The story of Western water is a story about people. Whether to drink, complete chores or stay cool, water is not guaranteed in drought-stricken and disproportionately impacted communities.

For example, the Navajo Nation was left out of talks 100 years ago when the Colorado River Compact was created. Today, nearly 40% of the Navajo Nation lives without running water.

Left (Top): Children cool off in a pool outside a home in Haswell, Colorado, which was hit hard by drought.

Left (Bottom): Yolinda Mejia siphons water into a five-gallon bucket to use for a load of laundry outside her home on the Navajo Reservation in 2022.

RJ Sangosti

Left: The sharp curves within the northwestern arm of Glen Canyon form a stunning backdrop for the dramatic gap between the high-water line, marked by white calcium carbonate deposits, and the black mass of water below.

Bottom: As water levels have dropped in the upper region of Glen Canyon, many valleys are buried in suffocating silt — some upwards of 200 feet deep. Elliot Ross' wife, Genevieve, navigates the soupy, silt-filled aftermath of a flash flood in Iceberg Canyon, which removed about two feet of silt from the canyon in one day. This image "illustrates how quickly deposited sediment has been washed out," said Ross, visualizing geologic change on a human timeline.

Elliot Ross

Elliot Ross was raised in part on Colorado's eastern plains in a ranching family focused on weather and water. As he pursued photography, he dreamed of assignments that would take him to wild places around the world. Yet after years of working with elite photographers in New York, he returned home in 2018 to find that "water was more of a conversation than it had been when I left," he said.

His time as a Ted Scripps Fellow brought him back to his Western roots, using his camera "to understand this most precious resource that we have, which a lot of us — myself included — take for granted that it runs clean out of the tap."

Elliot Ross

Left: As water recedes from canyon walls and valleys, flora thrives once again, forming a diverse ecosystem within the vast number of tributary canyons that feed into the main Colorado River channel. Ross' summer 2024 exhibition at the Denver Botanic Gardens, "Geography of Hope," puts a positive spin on these changes and illustrates the opportunities that can take root even in the absence of water.

Western ecological documentation was sparse before the construction of Glen Canyon Dam in 1964, which created Lake Powell by flooding almost 190 miles of canyon upstream. As this artificial lake shrinks, we are watching a major river and long-sunk ecosystem reestablish itself in Colorado, said Ross.

Right: Houseboats gather in the deepest water available, with access to one of the last operating boat ramps off Lake Powell's Bullfrog Bay. Here the decline of Western water is startlingly clear, as recreational boats sit unused on the lake.

While 3 million visitors each year vacation and recreate on the reservoir, Ross is more concerned with those unable to access the water. In 2024, for the second half of his Scripps Fellowship, Ross is focusing on issues of water equity and justice to foster conversations about the disadvantaged populations who do not have the same access to this vital resource, especially tribal nations in the region.

Water equity is a timely topic. When regional leaders begin creating the 2026 interim guidelines for the Colorado River, Native American tribes will join the negotiating table, and "hopefully, for the first time they'll be addressing the inequities of the 1922 Colorado River Compact through indigenous inclusion," said Ross.

Elliot Ross

Saving Acequias

How Law Students Are Protecting a Historic Water Distribution Tradition in Southern Colorado

by Sarah Kuta

Water is vital for life in the West. In Colorado's San Luis Valley, it's so essential that, for generations, some communities — called acequias — have treated it as a communal resource that's meant to be shared.

For the past decade, Colorado Law students have supported the legal needs of these communities through the Acequia Assistance Project. The initiative is a collaboration between CU Boulder's Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment with Colorado Open Lands, the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association and several law firms in the state.

Through the project, law students work hand-in-hand with lawyers and professors to provide an estimated $300,000 worth of free legal services to the roughly 130 acequia communities in Colorado.

Not only does this pro bono work help keep a historic water distribution philosophy alive, but it gives students a chance to put theory into practice — and experience how natural resources law can affect real people.

"Water in the West is at a critical point right now, where climate scientists are predicting increased aridication in Colorado, which will likely result in less water," said **Mary Slosson** (Law'24), one of the project's student deputy directors. "It's one thing to study these problems from a legal standpoint in the classroom, but it's entirely another thing to talk about climate change with a small family farmer while walking their land."

Acequia means "water bearer" in Arabic. The practice — which centers on a network of irrigation channels — originated in Northern Africa, then spread to Europe during the Middle Ages. From there, the Spanish brought the concept to the New World, where it took hold in Mexico and what is present-day New Mexico and Colorado.

But an acequia represents much more than just the physical infrastructure: It's a way of life. In acequia communities, water is divvied up as equitably as possible — and landowners pitch in to help maintain the ditches.

This philosophy stands in stark contrast to the way water is distributed elsewhere in Colorado. The state's water laws are based on "prior appropriation," which means that whoever has the oldest water rights gets first dibs on water, according to **Gregor MacGregor** (IntlAf'12; Law'19), who participated in the project as a law student and now serves as its director. In times of scarcity, this approach — also known as "first in time, first in right"— means there may not be enough water for those with the youngest water rights, he added.

"In an acequia system, there aren't shares — it's one landowner, one vote," said MacGregor. "The way they allocate water is more personal and values-driven. People on the acequia system are tied to the water and the land."

For more than a century, Colorado's legal framework did not recognize acequias. But in 2009, the state legislature passed a law that allowed acequias to incorporate while continuing to operate in their traditional way. To help acequias take advantage of this new recognition, **Peter Nichols** (MPubAd'82; Law'01) launched the project with Colorado Law professor Sarah Krakoff in 2012.

"The fact that we have this population that was more or less ignored for 150 years is a huge environmental justice issue," said MacGregor. "This is a great way to use our very particular set of skills to right the wrongs of the past in a very meaningful way that empowers these communities to chart their own future."

Law students help acequia communities by drafting bylaws and governance documents, representing them in water court and negotiating the sale of water rights. They also conduct extensive research to help acequias incorporate, as they did with the historic Montez Ditch in San Luis, Colorado.

"The Acequia Project has become part of our community," said Charlie Jaquez, a former Montez Ditch commissioner whose ancestors were some of the original settlers of San Luis in 1851. "They have been very, very helpful — and very generous. Especially in areas like Conejos and Costilla counties, these communities just do not have a whole lot of money. The ditch would've just kept on going the way we did before, decade after decade, but now it's been placed on solid legal footing."

Sally Deng

SECRETS FROM THE GRAVE

By studying human skeletal remains, bioarchaeologist Sharon DeWitte is opening a new window into past pandemics and giving voice to the voiceless.

BY LISA MARSHALL

Paul Blow

Centuries from now, if an archaeologist were to dig up Sharon DeWitte's bleached and weathered bones, they'd find a 7-inch stainless steel rod and nine screws buried among them.

These remnants of her childhood bout with scoliosis would not be the only window into the life she led.

Her flaming red hair and the rich tapestry of arm tattoos would be long gone. But the carbon and nitrogen isotopes in her molars would hint at her mostly vegetarian diet. Her stout, calcium-rich foot bones would offer clues that she was a runner. And a bony bump on her right patella, or knee bone, would serve as a legacy of the bad fall she took on a trail one summer.

While imagining one's remains may seem grisly, DeWitte has been doing it for as long as she can remember.

"Since I was a child I've been thinking about what happens to our bodies after we die and what stories people might make up about us based on what they find," said DeWitte, seated cross-legged in her dark gray office, plaster casts of two human skulls and a femur perched on a shelf near her desk.

A CU Boulder professor of anthropology and a pioneer in the niche field of bioarchaeology, she is now the one crafting those stories.

Through hours spent alone in museum basements, analyzing the fragile bones of those who died centuries ago in pandemics, she offers new insight into why some resist novel viruses and bacteria while others succumb to them. Her work also sheds light on how pathogens, like those during the Black Death, evolve and lend insight into the past lives of individuals, including women, children, the poor and racial minority groups.

"Skeletal evidence can provide us with information about people who aren't necessarily represented in most historical documents," said DeWitte, noting that those documents were often written by and about the wealthy and powerful. "I feel honored to be able to share something about people who were likely ignored while they were alive and are not represented in many surviving documents."

REVISITING THE BLACK DEATH

In the spring of 2003, as tourists milled through the exhibits nearby, DeWitte pulled boxes containing complete human skeletons off the shelves in the Museum of London storage room. The museum's famed Centre for Human Bioarchaeology is home to thousands of centuries-old skeletal remains, excavated from burial grounds around the city.

DeWitte was particularly interested in those from Black Death cemeteries, mass graves proactively set aside in London in the mid-14th century as the bubonic plague marched across the European continent.

"They knew it was coming, and they knew it was going to be terrible," she said.

For months, she gingerly pulled the bones out of sealed plastic packages and placed them one by one onto a padded table to measure and inspect them.

As she explained, leg bone length can hint at someone's stature and nutrition status, while abnormal bumps indicate injuries or infection. Porous lesions around the eye sockets can be remnants of anemia. Horizontal stripes on the surface of teeth, known as linear enamel hypoplasia, can indicate episodes of disease or malnutrition, and thick plaque can provide hints about a person's hygiene or socioeconomic status.

"When you brush and floss your teeth, you're actually looking at your own skeleton," she said. "They are an amazing repository of information about our lives."

The humanity of it all was not lost on her. She was brought to tears when she opened a bag containing the tiny bones of an infant, or another in which mother and child appeared to have died together.

"I wondered, 'What were their last moments like together?' Every day I would see something so sad," she recalled.

She stressed that she is careful not to engage in the study of skeletal remains that are held against the wishes of descendant populations.

"I want to be sure the work I am doing never causes harm to living people."

THE MARGINALIZED HIT FIRST AND WORST

DeWitte has studied hundreds of skeletons, publishing numerous papers that paint a sometimes surprising picture of the world's most deadly pandemic. The Black Death did not, according to her research, kill indiscriminately. As with the COVID-19 pandemic, it hit marginalized communities, including the poor and the frail, harder.

"Premodern structural racism," as the authors call it, may have also played a role in determining who lived or died, suggests a new paper DeWitte and colleagues published in the journal *Bioarchaeology International*.

For the study, DeWitte and collaborators at the Museum of London and Brandeis University examined the bones of individuals buried in the East Smithfield emergency plague cemetery in the mid-1300s and those in two other London cemeteries that were not plague burial grounds. Using anthropological tools to estimate the population affinity of the deceased, they found significantly higher proportions of people of estimated African affinity in East Smithfield. Through further analysis, they concluded that Black women — who were often subject to misogyny and anti-Blackness and kept as servants in London at the time — were significantly more likely to die of the Black Death than people of white European descent.

"This research shows that there is a deep history of social marginalization shaping health and vulnerability to disease in human populations," said DeWitte.

LESSONS FROM THE PAST

In other work, DeWitte collaborated with scientists to extract DNA from the teeth of Black Death victims. They found that the genome of Yersinia pestis, the bacteria that killed as many as 50 million people, is not all that different from that of bubonic plague varieties circulating today.

What made it so deadly?

More research is underway to help answer that question, but one possibility, DeWitte said, may have been climate change.

The 14th century marked the end of what some refer to as the Medieval Warm Period, a 400-year span in which relatively warm conditions were the norm and, across the Northern Hemisphere, people were able to broaden and diversify crops.

"As this warm period started to end, population growth outpaced agricultural production, and you had a growing share of resources and money concentrated into the hands of very few people," she said. "It was a lot like what you see today — climate change increasing social inequality, and then a new disease gets introduced."

A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Arizona State University anthropologist Jane Buikstra, who coined the term and founded the field of bioarchaeology, said DeWitte's work resonates in the era of COVID-19.

"Her work speaks to the issue of vulnerability and the fact that people who are disadvantaged, often through no fault of their own, are at special risk for these emerging diseases."

DeWitte joined CU's Institute for Behavioral Science in 2023 and has plans to expand her work to Northern China, where she will soon embark on a study at a 5,000-year-old site of "catastrophic mortality" — likely a plague.

Despite the seemingly dark nature of her work, she exudes warmth and optimism as she talks about its potential for good.

By identifying the structural inequalities that made certain groups more vulnerable to disease and death in past pandemics, she hopes her work can inspire modern society to tear down those inequalities.

Hopefully, before the next pandemic hits.

"THEY ARE AN AMAZING REPOSITORY OF INFORMATION ABOUT OUR LIVES."

A Piece of Colorado's Past

On Jan. 16, the day students returned from winter break, the CU Museum of Natural History unveiled a full-scale Triceratops skeleton in the lobby of the Sustainability, Energy and Environment Community (SEEC) building on CU Boulder's East Campus. The dinosaur is a skeletal reconstruction cast from the bones of several Triceratops that once roamed the West. The free exhibit is open to the public.

The Smithsonian Museum delivered the disassembled skeleton via truck to Boulder in 2022. A crew put it back together off-site before bringing it to its current SEEC location.

"Everybody knows about Triceratops," said Karen Chin, geological sciences professor and the museum's paleontology curator. "But it's not common in museums to see the whole animal. To see the scale of this dinosaur, and such a weird dinosaur, is very exciting."

Climate

Warmer and more humid than today. Palms, flowering plants and ferns flourished.

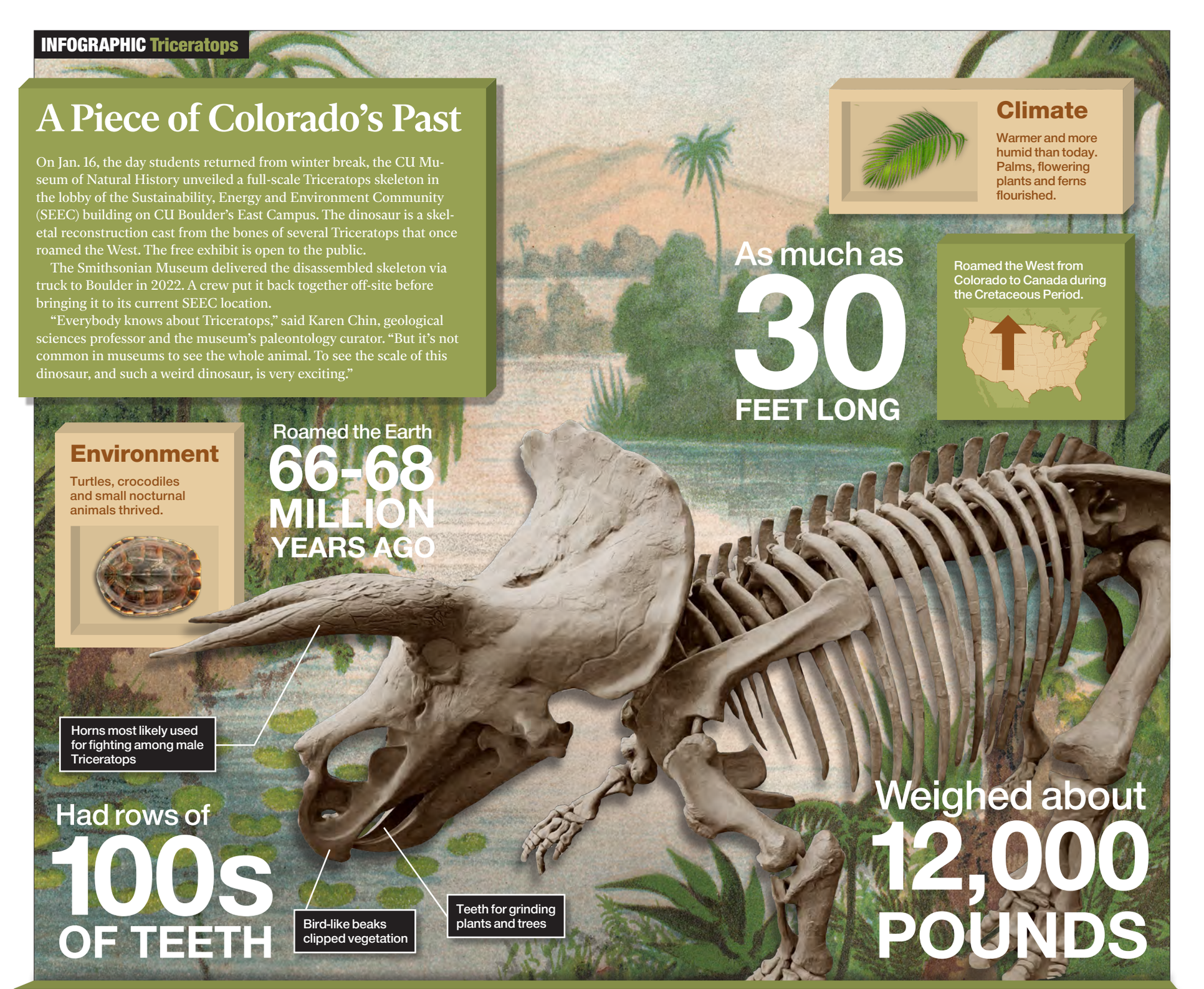
As much as **30** FEET LONG

Roamed the West from Colorado to Canada during the Cretaceous Period.

Environment

Turtles, crocodiles and small nocturnal animals thrived.

Roamed the Earth **66-68 MILLION** YEARS AGO



Horns most likely used for fighting among male Triceratops

Had rows of **100s** OF TEETH

Bird-like beaks clipped vegetation

Teeth for grinding plants and trees

Weighed about **12,000** POUNDS

CU's Triceratops

- The first complete dinosaur skeleton displayed by the CU Museum of Natural History
- High-resolution cast made of plaster, fiberglass and foam
- Cast from the bones of several partial Triceratops specimens found in the late 1800s
- 22 feet long and 9 feet tall
- Colorado school teacher unearthed the first documented Triceratops fossils near Denver in 1887

Casey A. Cass iStock

The Class of 2024

Embracing the Unknown, Becoming Unstoppable

By Christie Sounart

The class of 2024 is unique — though a more typical campus experience for them might have been easier.

Many of these students arrived on campus in the fall of 2020 at the height of COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. Some took classes from home on the other side of the world, waking up at 2 a.m. to attend a Boulder-based Zoom class. Others experienced isolation. And some came back to a different world after trying a new experience — the military, an out-of-state school or a gap year.

They adapted to online learning as CU Boulder continued developing new curricula, and complied with weekly virus testing and mask requirements, while the university canceled campus activities. The "college experience" previous generations raved about didn't exist. But they persisted, pioneering their own college traditions, while adjusting to ever-evolving technology, public health advisories and political divisions.

These students — many of whom were born after 9/11 — saw the rise of TikTok and ChatGPT, global wars and climate-related disasters that completely changed the world in four years. Interviews with 12 of these students revealed a resounding theme: the importance of their Buffs community. From the marching band to the physics lab — friends, peers, advisors, professors and family members motivated them to keep moving forward through it all.

Senior **Benjamin Varga** (BusAna, InfoMgmt'24) said: "Even though we come from so many different backgrounds, I really can feel a strong sense of community and pride within anyone that I run into who is from CU."

Benjamin Varga

(BusAna, InfoMgmt'24) *Parker, Colorado*

The on-campus professional business fraternity called Alpha Kappa Psi really influenced my time at CU. Meeting the upperclassmen in that fraternity was my first opportunity to make CU a little bit smaller. I made great friendships in the dorms and everything like that, but being pretty intentional about it and having to go through the process and then getting welcomed with open arms and shown a whole new subset culture of CU — that was a super cool way to feel a little bit more niche and find a little bit more of a closer circle, especially early on, which is really important.

Elijah Parkes

(IntlAf'24) *Superior, Colorado*

I initially fell into a leadership role in the College of Arts and Sciences' student government, and from there, it allowed me to challenge myself as a leader and do things I never would have been able to do otherwise. Being president of a college student government was not something that I would've ever predicted for myself, but I now can't imagine my college career without it. And working, networking and helping other people like my peers be leaders as well has been really, really rewarding.

Jessica Valadez Fraire

(ElEdu'24) *Boulder, Colorado*

What's happening in Palestine has been really impactful to me. I've seen more of a community effort to educate ourselves about issues that are happening not only in our communities, but outside of them and how they're

all connected. I've been part of a lot of circles and community spaces where we're having critical discussions about injustice, oppression and colonialism, and we're starting to build a broader community among a lot of different people that are struggling with issues similar to ours. This has taught me to educate myself and pushed me further into learning about the struggles of other communities and the responsibility I have to spread that message, including using my privilege in being a citizen here, the power in that and the responsibility I have to doing more.

> "Helping other people like my peers be leaders... has been **really, really rewarding**."
>
> – Elijah Parkes

Jacqueline Oakley

Matt Guerrero

(Math, Phys'24) *Parker, Colorado*

I struggle a lot with transitioning back into the civilian world after being in the Navy, even now after four or five years. One of my very best friends runs an organization here in physics called COSMOS, the Community of Support for Marginalized and Other Students, which is a diversity-focused group within physics. And because he was one of my best friends and also a veteran, I ended up doing my best to support him in any way I could. And that flipped a switch in me to actively pursue diversity-related issues

within STEM, particularly that people who are from underprivileged backgrounds or backgrounds of color don't generally get the same attention as people who aren't.

I'm half Filipino, half Ashkenazi Jew, and I've never really fit in anywhere. As a veteran who's joining the civilian community, it's difficult to find people you trust and can relate to. This group helped me not only recognize that a lot of people might feel like that wherever they come from, but also that it's possible to relate to people who don't know exactly what you've been through. And through that, I've tried to be that person who can do that for others.

Madison Tallman

(Mus'24) *Colorado Springs, Colorado*

COVID was the biggest event that defined my growth the past few years. That's because of how much it affected music specifically. Music is all about collaboration, so missing that element of it, I did see a lot of people struggle with that. I feel like I really just pushed through because I was like, 'Once this is back to normal, it's going to be so rewarding.' It really was. And one thing it did for me — and in high school too because I had so much time to myself — was really allow me to reflect on what I wanted to do. It was reassuring in a way that, yes, this is what I want to do even though I'm not able to do these things collaboratively. I pushed through it, and I think it made me stronger in the end.

"I pushed through it, and I think it made me **stronger in the end**."

– Madison Tallman

"That really forced me to develop my inward perspective, **become more comfortable with myself** as a person."

– Nathan Thompson

Nathan Thompson

(Jour'24) *Lafayette, Colorado*

Due to illness in 2020, I couldn't leave my room for two months. It was a lot of time in forced isolation. That really forced me to develop my inward perspective, become more comfortable with myself as a person and develop my own voice and my own self-confidence too. So that was interesting because my network was really small. It was just me and then maybe three or four friends for a while who were really formative in shaping me into who I am today. And I also think mentors too, and a lot of the photographers and professors that I've been fortunate enough to get to know and connect with deeply have really helped me and inspired me to continue to work hard and carve out a space for myself as a self-sufficient photographer.

Hazel Hays

(CompSci'24) *Aurora, Colorado*

The fight for LGBT rights, especially to do with transgender rights, is a community issue that has shaped my personal growth while in college. It's a big topic for me being transgender myself. That's been the big defining thing lately for me. It's mainly that they are my rights and so they're something that I have to fight for.

"They are my rights and so they're something **that I have to fight for**."

– Hazel Hays

Jacqueline Oakley

Shivank Chadda

(Math, Phys'24) *Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India*

During COVID, interestingly, there were a lot of bad things that were going on, but one of the good things was witnessing that the internet is a good place to get your education. And coming from islands where I didn't really have internet for 18 years, and right when I started at CU Boulder, I was very lucky to get the internet right at that particular time. And then in January 2023, my brother and I started a YouTube channel on science, "Doctor Chadha," where we make physics videos based on dynamics and stuff like that. We were able to get 200,000 views per year and around 1,300 subscribers.

"It's really cool to be part of a global community where **people are looking out for each other** and can unite."

– Megan Finnigan

Megan Finnigan

(EngrPhys, MechEngr'24)
Superior, Colorado

My entire time in my undergraduate career has been shaped a lot by climate-related issues. I've been involved with Engineers Without Borders and other environmental

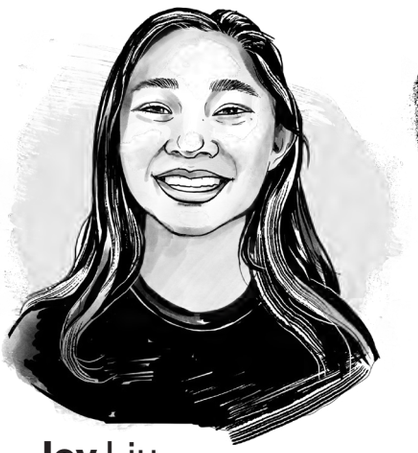
organizations on campus, and it's something that has driven me to continue to study science and learn how I can make a difference. When I was in Rwanda I met this woman who, when I shook her hand, I noticed she had a Ralphie tattoo on her wrist, and we connected over that. It's really cool to be part of a global community where people are looking out for each other and can unite over these shared experiences.

Two years ago, my family and I were part of the Marshall Fire, and while we didn't lose our house, I saw a lot of my neighbors lose their homes, and we had extensive smoke damage at our house. And that felt like a very real experience of a natural disaster, largely attributed to the effects of climate change and drought. That further ignited the flame in me to keep pushing and pursuing a career where I can make an impact.

Brandon Dixon

(Soc'24) *Castle Rock, Colorado*

Being locked inside the house around my family 24/7 during a dark time really motivated me and gave me a different perspective on life. Just the uncertainty of it all and being around my loved ones at that time showed me that as long as you are around good people, anything can happen.



Joy Liu

(Chem, PortugSpan'24)
Aurora, Colorado

COVID definitely made me have a broader outlook on things. I am just more aware of how many different things are tied together. I feel like if I am worried about something, it's like, 'Well, it could be me being upset about this, or it could be tons of other things happening,' and I need to learn how to understand why it's happening and then learn how to deal with it.

"As long as you are around good people, **anything can happen**."

– Brandon Dixon

Hassan Almatrood

(MechEngr'24) *Saihat, Saudi Arabia*

I was studying at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon, and I chose to come to CU Boulder because I always heard from people — especially from my brother because he knew people who graduated from CU Boulder — that there is a good community in Boulder. I heard that the university culture is good and there is a balance between studying and social life, which is something that I would appreciate. So I chose to be here and it was correct. I'm glad that I came here.

Jacqueline Oakley

DANCE DANCE BEEVOLUTION

THE BUZZWORTHY RESEARCH OF DR. SAMMY

BY ERIKA HANES

Before Samuel Ramsey became the world's foremost expert on bees — and an assistant professor of ecology, entomology and evolutionary biology at CU Boulder — he was just another kid afraid of bugs. But one pivotal trip to the biology section of a local library changed Ramsey's life forever.

"I was 7," said Ramsey, known by most as "Dr. Sammy." "My parents handed me a book on bugs and said, 'People fear what they don't understand.' That was it."

In opening the book, Ramsey opened a portal to another world, sparking a lifelong passion for all things creepy-crawly. Within the field of entomology, Ramsey quickly narrowed his research to bees, inspired by the many parallels between human and bee behavior.

"Take dancing, for instance," Ramsey said. "Bees use what's called a waggle dance to communicate. Every intricate movement and precise gesture provides vital information to the rest of the hive, such as locations for rich sources of nectar or where to build their next hive."

Ramsey's contributions to the study of bees have been substantial. His research encompasses various aspects of bee behavior, ecology and evolutionary biology.

One of his greatest research endeavors explores the "bee pandemic" — the mass decline of bee populations around the world — and its potential impact on our daily lives. Beyond the immediate threat to basic food crops, his research underscores the interconnectedness of the global food supply chain and the urgent need for bee conservation.

"The average person isn't going to know there's a problem until they see the impact on their wallets and tables," Ramsey said. "The decline in bee populations impacts coffee, fruit, dairy and so much more. What happens when only the wealthy can afford a latte or limes? What happens when we can only buy certain fruits, nuts or vegetables seasonally? These are very real possibilities if we don't act soon."

As a professor, Ramsey has never forgotten his childhood lesson that fear often stems from a lack of understanding, which is why he emphasizes science communication in his classroom. Effective science communication, he argues, is not only vital for teaching but also critical for building public trust.

"If nobody can understand you, it doesn't matter what your message is," he said. "Unfortunately, we saw this concept play out during the pandemic — scientists couldn't connect with the general public, even when the message was about life and death."

Ramsey's journey from a child afraid of bugs to an expert researcher and teacher of entomology exemplifies how knowledge can eliminate fear, and transform it into action. In and out of the classroom, Ramsey advocates for policy changes and offers practical steps that anyone can take to contribute to bee welfare.

"Refrain from using pesticides on your lawns," he said. "Rewild your lawn by planting a garden, even a small one. Vote for representatives who will fund scientific research. You can even rehouse bees by drilling holes in a chunk of wood and placing it near plants.

"Little things can make a big difference."

John T. Consoli/ University of Maryland

SAVE THE DATE

2024 TRACK AND FIELD OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY 11-12 | POTTS FIELD

SPRING INTO ACTION

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TENNIS

MATT WARD
TRACK AND FIELD

JADA GREEN
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MORGAN PENCE
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ALUMNInews

A Global CU Network

The Forever Buffs Tokyo chapter and Global Ambassadors Program partnered for an alumni event in January.

Japan's Forever Buffs Tokyo alumni chapter has an open door for all affiliated with CU Boulder. The chapter provides students, faculty and alumni the opportunity to meet with local alumni or students when they visit.

"You always have to have a trusted local partner when getting into a foreign market, and there are no better trusted people than local alums," said **Nobunaga Koga** (IntlAf'98), who will take over as chapter leader this year.

The chapter, which has gathered alumni together for decades, is part of a worldwide network of organized groups of alumni sponsored by the CU Boulder Alumni Association who live in cities across the U.S. and overseas and who aim to connect with each other in a specific geographic location.

In January, the chapter partnered with CU Boulder's Global Ambassadors Program — which advocates for the university around the world, provides global perspectives and offers current students and faculty experiences with alumni who are living abroad or have an international background — for an event in Tokyo. More than 80 alumni attended, including former CU men's basketball forward **Josh Scott** (Soc'16), who now plays basketball for the Yokohama B-Corsairs.

In January, more than 80 alumni gathered together in Tokyo.

Alumni with the Global Ambassadors Program, which started in 2016, host events, offer internships, open the doors of their businesses or organizations and connect CU affiliates with people they know in the area.

"Global ambassadors have been instrumental in hosting events such as in Tokyo and London, establishing student exchange programs in Bremen, Germany, arranging visits for student programs and establishing dual degree programs in places like Mexico City," said Manuel Laguna, faculty associate for global engagement and MediaOne professor of management science.

Yuka Hasegawa (ChinLang&Lit; MIntlEdu), who graduated in the 1990s, has been involved with hosting Buffs in Japan for more than 20 years and sees the importance of a global network for CU.

"It has been my dream to be a bridge between the U.S. and Japan since I was a child," she said. "It is such a rewarding experience for me to not only benefit the Buffs, but it also enriches my life in countless ways. I feel CU in my heart."

If you are interested in becoming a global ambassador, visit colorado.edu/global. For more information about creating a network for the CU community, visit colorado.edu/alumni.

Brian Scott Peterson

CU BOULDER Alumni Association

Ways to Engage

Vanessa Lopez (EthnicSt, Mgmt'09) has been involved with the Forever Buffs Latinx club since 2017.

"Being able to reconnect with fellow Latinx Buffs and leading the way for future Latinx Buffs has been a great way to re-engage with the CU community," she said.

She wants other alumni to get involved too. Several CU chapters and affinity-based clubs are located around the country. The groups hold events such as football and basketball watch parties, volunteering opportunities and networking events. Leadership opportunities are also available for the organizations.

"I have loved leading the Washington, D.C., chapter because it has introduced my wife **Kristen** (Psych'92) and me to Forever Buffs of all ages — from 22 to 82 — and has allowed us to build a community in the D.C. metro area that also includes students, parents and friends of CU," said **Dale Farrand** (AeroEngr'93), who has been a part of the D.C. chapter since 2015 and served as its leader for nearly three years.

Find out more about getting involved at colorado.edu/alumni/communities.

CU FOOTBALL: "WE COMING"

Support the CU Buffaloes on the road as they start a new season in the Big 12 Conference. For away games, the CU Boulder Alumni Association will host Buffs Bashes in Lincoln, Nebraska; Fort Collins, Colorado; Tucson, Arizona; Lawrence, Kansas; Lubbock, Texas; and Orlando, Florida. Scheduling details are being finalized. Also save the date for Homecoming Weekend, Sept. 19–21, and Family Weekend, Oct. 24–27. *Learn more at colorado.edu/alumni/experiences.*

AFFINITY GRADUATIONS THIS MAY

CU's commencement ceremony is Thursday, May 9, at Folsom Field. Several affinity groups also will hold special recognition ceremonies for graduates at the Koenig Alumni Center. These groups include the Asian American & Pacific Islander Alumni, Black Alumni, Golden Buffalo Marching Band, Latinx, LGBTQ+ and Native affinity groups. Alumni interested in serving on the planning committee for any of the affinity graduation ceremonies are encouraged to email Nelson.Castro@colorado.edu. *Learn more at colorado.edu/alumni/affinity-graduations.*

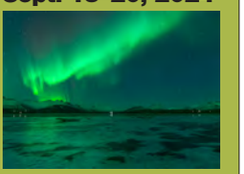
FOREVER BUFFS NETWORK MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Help foster a meaningful relationship and guide a student or alum in their career by becoming a mentor through the Forever Buffs Network. Share professional and personal experience while helping a mentee navigate challenges, set goals and expand their professional network. *Join the Forever Buffs Network at foreverbuffsnetwork.com.*

2024 TRIPS

Insider's Japan
Aug. 21–Sept. 2, 2024

Northern Lights and the Wildlife of Northern Manitoba
Sept. 15–20, 2024



Village Life of France
Sept. 26–Oct. 4, 2024

Swiss Alps and Italian Lakes
Oct. 2–11, 2024

Classic Greece and Turkey
Oct. 20–30, 2024

For more information about the Roaming Buffs travel program, email roamingbuffstravel@colorado.edu, call 303-492-8484 or visit www.colorado.edu/alumni/roamingbuffs.

A Shared Passion

CU Buffs often describe themselves as family, but in this case, two members of the CU Boulder Police Department (CUPD) sworn to serve and protect really are family.

Officer Cathy Chestnut and her son, Officer Matt Dillon, were sworn in together in October. Their shared passion for public service led them both to CUPD, where Chestnut was already serving as a police dispatcher when the pull to go back on the beat became too strong to ignore.

At the same time, Dillon was graduating from the police academy. His decision to become a police officer was influenced by his five years of service in the United States Marine Corps. Applying his service mindset closer to home meant mother and son's paths converged.

"I am incredibly proud of Matt," said Chestnut. "I am excited to be serving with him and looking forward to sharing my knowledge of the job to help him grow and learn."

"It's a privilege to be able to work here," said Dillon. "The ability to serve this campus feels like protecting the future." **BY CHRISTINE MAHONEY**

A mother and son serve together as members of the CUPD.

Matthew Jonas/*Daily Camera*

A Solutions-Based Approach for Western Water

Philip P. DiStefano

Glance at a photo of campus from the late 1800s, when only Old Main stood, and it may take a moment to orient yourself. Soon you'll spot familiar landmarks: the Flatirons rising to the west, Boulder Creek flowing to the north.

Far before the university's earliest days, the natural landscape — and water, specifically — has played an important role across Colorado and the West.

More than wayfinding aids or scenic features, our rivers, reservoirs and rainclouds have defined the direction and pace of economic development, supported the agricultural needs of the nation and provided fertile ground for collaboration and conflict.

Today, water — or the absence of it — continues to be a defining factor for the West. And now, CU Boulder faculty, staff and students are lending their expertise to help communities make smart, data-informed decisions about this precious and often imperiled natural resource.

In CU's environmental journalism program, students and alumni are exploring how declining water supplies and climate change will impact our lives and livelihoods in the years to come.

Across engineering and the sciences, researchers are examining how water quality is impacted by oil and gas or mining operations, wildfires and other natural and human activities.

For 20 years, the Western Water Assessment team within CU Boulder's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) has partnered with researchers from multiple disciplines in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah to conduct innovative water research and make the findings more accessible to decision-makers across the region. The work directly aids communities seeking greater resilience in the face of climate change.

And for the past several years, instructors from CIRES have taught a free online course through Coursera that allows students worldwide to examine scientific, legal and cultural issues around water using the Colorado River Basin as a case study. More than 3,000 people are currently enrolled.

These are just a few examples of how members of the CU Boulder community are helping to address the West's toughest questions related to water needs.

In the face of climate change, these matters become more consequential. And it becomes even more essential that we bring diverse voices and perspectives into the conversation that have been neglected or ignored.

Too often, discussions on water in the West can leave us feeling concerned, distrustful or apprehensive.

But when I consider how CU Boulder's faculty, students and staff are becoming part of the solutions, I find myself once again with reason to hope — and that's a river that will never run dry.

PHILIP P. DISTEFANO IS THE 11TH CHANCELLOR OF CU BOULDER. HE IS THE QUIGG AND VIRGINIA S. NEWTON ENDOWED CHAIR IN LEADERSHIP, OVERSEEING CU BOULDER'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS.

Matthew Rossi/CIRES

SPORTSnews

By ***Andrew Daigle*** (PhDEngl'16)

Soccer Returns to the NCAA Tournament

Buffs won multiple do-or-die matches to make it to the postseason.

For the first time in 13 years, Colorado soccer earned a trip to the NCAA Tournament. The Buffs concluded their final Pac-12 season in fourth place — the team's best mark since 2016 — before losing 1-0 to Texas A&M in the first round of NCAAs on Nov. 10, 2023.

The Buffs started the season with a seven-game winning streak.

The Buffs (13-5-3, 5-3-3 Pac-12) started off with an 8-1-0 non-conference record that included the first games under lights at the newly updated Prentup Field, a seven-game winning streak and a 2-0 victory over No. 14 Michigan State.

Pac-12 play brought challenging matchups and a five-game winless streak. After a 1-1 draw at Washington on Oct. 22, the Buffs had three matches left. One more loss or draw would sink their postseason hopes.

"We all understood the assignment. We pumped each other up. Even if we played different positions, teammates were helping teammates," said striker **Shyra James** (MediaSt'24).

Colorado responded with consecutive wins over Arizona, No. 18 Arizona State and Utah to earn a trip to NCAAs.

James led the Buffs with 15 goals and 32 points, both career highs. The four-year starter was Third Team All-America and finished second in goals (40) and third in points (86) all-time at Colorado.

While James was one of eight graduating seniors, the Buffs are well-stocked for the future. The team began 2023 with 14 newcomers, including eight first-years and six transfers.

"The standard in our program is to be a great teammate … no matter your role," said head coach Danny Sanchez. "Their ability to quickly build relationships and push each other on and off the field was a huge part of our success."

Oklahoma State transfer **Jordan Nytes** (Soc'26) started in goal, posting eight shutouts and twice winning Pac-12 Goalkeeper of the Week.

First-years **Faith Leyba** (ExplorSt'27) and **Ava Priest** (EnvSt'27) earned additional honors. Leyba, who led all Buffs field players in minutes, was named Third Team All-Pacific Region. Priest was named the Pac-12's All-Freshman and second on the Buffs with 10 points.

"This team is close and willing to fight for each other," said Leyba.

Anne Kelly Retiring

Women's golf head coach Anne Kelly will retire after the 2023–24 season. The program's second full-time head coach, she has led the Buffaloes since 1997 and is the longest-tenured female head coach in Colorado Athletics history.

Under Kelly, CU has gone to regionals eight times and NCAAs twice. Golfers' achievements include five entries to regionals, nine All-Americans and 24 All-America Scholars.

"[I'm] primarily proud of so many of the young women who have played for Colorado and the amazing, successful and caring adults they have become," Kelly said.

Kelly received the 2023 Kim Evans Award for lifetime contributions to the sport from the Women's Golf Coaches Association.

CU athletic director Rick George announced that associate head coach Madeleine Sheils will succeed Kelly as head coach starting in 2024–25.

"[Kelly's] kindness, patience and humor are the foundations of Colorado women's golf, and I have big shoes to fill as I follow a coach who has positively influenced so many lives," said Sheils.

Buff Bits

Colorado football finished 4-8 (1-8 Pac-12) in Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders' first season as head coach. Sanders was named the *Sports Illustrated* Sportsperson of the Year in November 2023. Cornerback and wide receiver **Travis Hunter** (Psych'26) won the Paul Hornig Award as the Nation's Most Versatile Player and was a consensus First-Team All-American and Academic All-American. … Cross-country women and men finished 19th and 25th respectively at the NCAA Championships in Charlottesville, Virginia. … **Lexi Hadrych** (MSOL'23), **Skyy Howard** (MA&S'23) and **Maya Tabron** (Bus Ana, Mktg'24) received All-Pac-12 Volleyball Honorable Mentions. The Buffs finished the 2023 season 16-15 (8-12 Pac-12). … Women's basketball's **Jaylyn Sherrod** (Soc'22; MSOL'24) was named Associated Press National Player of the Week on Jan. 2. She had a career-high 34 points in a 76-65 win over No. 12 Utah on Dec. 30. … On Jan. 10, guard **KJ Simpson** (Comm'25) was named to the midseason watch list for the Wooden Award All America Team and Most Outstanding Player Award.

Coach Talk

"THEY DO IT, THEY RECONNECT, WE COME BACK TOGETHER, REFOCUS AND JUST MAKE SURE WE'RE ALL LOCKED IN AND ON THE SAME PAGE.

– Women's basketball head coach JR Payne after the No. 5 Buffs defeated No. 8 Stanford 71-59 on Jan. 14.

STATS

1st

First year alpine skier **Filip Wahlqvist** (Bus'27) won the first two races of his career Jan. 17 and 18 in Park City, Utah.

1.76

Meters cleared by track and field's **Allie Routledge** (EnvEngr'24) to win the women's high jump at Air Force on Jan. 20.

3rd

Morgan Miller's (St-Comm'26) finish at the 2023 Miami Hurricane Invitational to close the fall season for women's golf.

7-0

Tennis defeated UC Riverside in its spring season opener on Jan. 14 in Riverside, California.

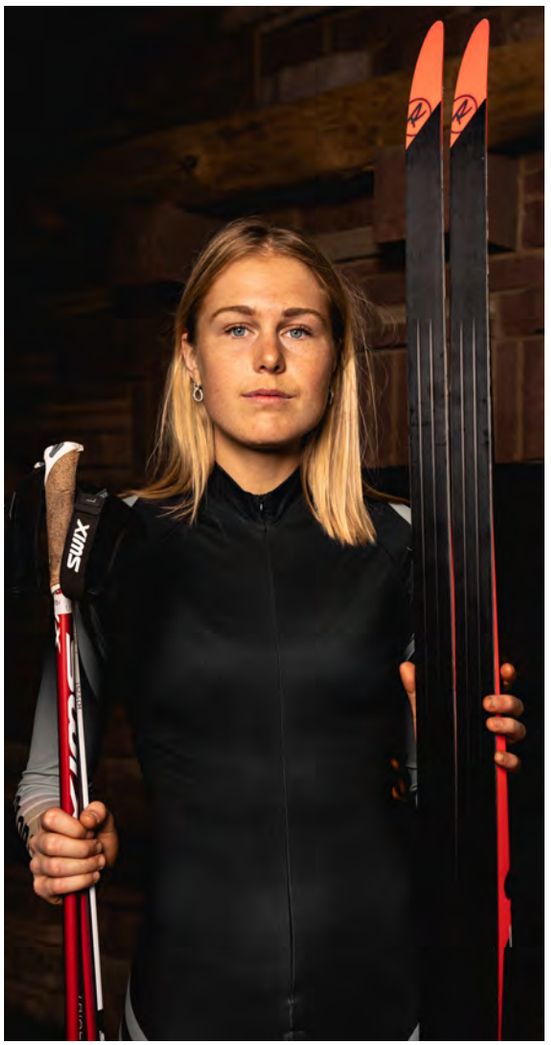
92-78

Women's basketball stunned reigning national champion and No. 1 LSU on Nov. 6 to open the 2023–24 season.

Courtesy CU Athletics

Segging Her Own Way

Nordic skier **Hanna Abrahamsson** (EnvEngr'25) entered this season as a three-time 1st Team All-American and a 2nd Team Academic All-American. Originally from Eksjö, Sweden, here she discusses endurance training, why she came to Colorado and ski culture back home.



You finished 2nd in classic and 5th in freestyle at the 2023 NCAA Championships. What was key to your success? I was struggling with injuries during the training season, so my expectations weren't super high. But when the season came, I performed better than ever before. I've trained since I was young in Sweden and on the national team for a couple of years. Sometimes when you train a lot, you're not getting better at the time, but if you allow your body to rest, you get payback later.

How do you approach a race? We start individually or in a mass. I prefer individuals because you set your own pace. With the mass start, it's more tactics. You have to run out at the top to get some meters on the others. It's a mental game as well. My best skill is to keep a pretty high speed for a very long time. We have a word for it in Swedish — to be really "seg."

What is offseason training like? Summer is when we get in the greatest volume of training. You can do different sports and still improve your skiing. It's all about getting your heartrate up. I do a lot of roller skiing, plus running and the SkiErg machine. During the summer, I do 18 to 25 hours of conditioning and two sessions of strength training each week. As it gets closer to ski season, volume decreases and intensity increases.

Do you still race for Sweden's National Team? Sweden's Nordic team is the best in the world. It's hard to get a spot. There's also this assumption that you're retiring when you go to the U.S. I really don't like that! I wanted to continue skiing but do it in another way than everyone at home. I get to see a new country, get an education and get so much more out of my skiing. But that said, when you choose to go here, you're not really included in the skiing community at home. I'm pretty sure I could have beaten Swedes who qualified for the U23 [ages 21–23] World Championships last year, but I was not taken.

Why did you choose CU? I wanted to get something else out of skiing. Several people suggested that college skiing might suit me. I contacted a Swede, Hedda Baangman (IntPhys'20), who was skiing for CU a couple years ago. She was like, "You have to do it!" I got coach Jana's [Weinberger] information and contacted her. Then I quickly decided on CU.

Can you share something you've learned from Jana Weinberger, skiing director and Nordic head coach? She is very good at looking at your entire life, including your school schedule. Then we build in training that's well suited to everything going on.

What do you love most about skiing? I like to race, but the part I like most is training and being outside. Here in Colorado and everywhere we travel to, the surroundings are gorgeous. I'm so thankful for that. When it comes to skiing itself, it's all about pushing myself and challenging my body.

Do you prefer to ski classic or freestyle? Classic. Even though I practice skate [freestyle] more, I am always better in classic. Skate or freestyle is like ice skating. With classic, you have your skis in a groomed track. You have ski wax under your skis so you're running, or striding, on your skis.

Does CU hosting the 2024 NCAA Championships at Steamboat Springs in March add pressure to this season? Yes, but we can handle it.

What's something readers would be surprised to learn about you? We don't have snow where I'm from in Sweden. Also, I live for training days when I do six hours of running. Or three hours on the SkiErg with intervals.

What do you want to do after you graduate? I want to show people at home that you can go to the U.S. and become better. Skiing is an old tradition and culture in Sweden. It can [feel like being in] a box, even if it's starting to change. I want to do the national team again and ski races to qualify for the World Cup, but in my way. I've learned a lot about myself since I came here. I would also love to do longer races. Nordic skiing has distance teams like with cycling and the Tour de France. Long-distance skiing suits me. INTERVIEW BY ANDREW DAIGLE

Courtesy CU Athletics

Join the CU Boulder **Alumni Volunteer Network!**

Make a difference! Serve in the Forever Buffs Volunteer Network to stay connected, give back and help make a positive impact in the CU community and beyond.

The network offers opportunities for group, individual and digital involvement, including in-person and remote volunteering.

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CLASSnotes

Springtime on the campus means beautiful, bright blossoms amid views of the Flatirons.

'63 **Gerald "Jerry" Miller** (Mgmt'63) is an amateur historian and writer. After retiring, he returned to his hometown of Pueblo, Colorado. He has contributed over 100 stories to the *Pueblo Lore*, a monthly journal, published by the Pueblo County Historical Society.

Rebecca Valette (PhDFren'63) is a professor emerita of romance languages at Boston College and an internationally recognized expert in language methodology, testing and applied linguistics. She and her husband, Jean-Paul Valette, have curated several exhibitions of Navajo textiles and are co-authors of *Weaving the Dance: Navajo Yeibichai Textiles (1910–1950) and Navajo Weavings with Ceremonial Themes: A Historical Overview of a Secular Art Form*. In December Rebecca's book *Clitso Dedman, Navajo Carver: His Art and His World* was published. It is the first biography of artist and master wood carver Clitso Dedman, one of the most important but overlooked Diné (Navajo) artists of his generation. Rebecca lives in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

'71 After years of visiting the Hawaiian island of Kauai and writing several whimsical rooster stories for the island's newspaper, *The Garden Island*, **Roger Lepley** (Arch'71) has compiled these stories and more into an illustrated book — *Kauai Rooster Stories and Other Tropical Tales*. Roger is an architect and industrial designer in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and the president and founder of Consort Corporation, a design-oriented manufacturing company.

'77 **Erica Elliott** (MEdu'77; MD'83) is a medical doctor in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She wrote a book, *From Mountains to Medicine: Scaling the Heights in Search of My Calling*, about searching for her life's purpose.

Mark Masters (IntlAf'77) is a veteran band announcer and a former drum major for the 1977–78 season of the CU Golden Buffalo Marching Band. Last fall, after 33 years of volunteering, he served as stadium announcer for the marching band for the final time. He lives in Denver.

In January **H. Gregory Nelch** (Mktg'77) joined the San Francisco branch of law firm Hinshaw & Culbertson LLC as senior counsel. He has more than three decades of experience advising national corporations, government entities and individuals in a wide range of litigation matters, including personal injury, product liability, construction defect, premises liability and professional negligence. After graduating from CU Boulder, he received his law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Nancy Ball Weil's (Russ'77) short stories have appeared in the anthology *Electric Grace* and the online journal *ArLiJo*. She has served as the Women's National Book Association's (WNBA) award chair, national co-vice president, national website co-chair and Washington, D.C., chapter newsletter editor. The WNBA has been devoted to books and literacy since 1917. Nancy is also the author of two novels: *Karmafornia* and *Superball*.

'81 After 30 years of working for CU Presents — the home of CU Boulder performing arts — Joan **McLean Beaun** (Mus'81; MBA'93) plans to retire in June. She became the program's executive director in 2001 and saw it grow to about 500 events a year, including concerts, operas, plays and musicals. "Joan's efforts have been deeply appreciated and have laid the foundation for future success for CU performers, scholars and artists," said Chancellor Philip DiStefano last fall. Joan lives in Boulder.

'82 Chemical engineer **Seth Darst** (ChemEng'82) investigates the structure, function and regulation of RNA synthesis in bacteria and SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent for COVID-19. He was elected to the United States National Academy of Sciences in 2008, is a professor of molecular biophysics at Rockefeller University and won the Gregori Aminoff Prize in 2022. The annual prize is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and recognizes individual contributions to the field of crystallography, the study of atomic structures in solid materials. The King of Sweden presented Seth with the award.

AFTER 33 YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING, MARK MASTERS SERVED HIS LAST GAME AS STADIUM ANNOUNCER FOR CU'S GOLDEN BUFFALO MARCHING BAND.

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"ex" indicates a nondegree and the year of expected graduation.

Glenn Asakawa

'84 Musical composer **Geary Larrick** (DMus'84) lives in the Chicago area as a retired music professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He previously spent 50 years in central Wisconsin. In the 1970s and 80s, Geary gave the Colorado premieres of his "Sonata" for bass drum, which was composed in Aspen, "Marie: A Four-Mallet Rag" for marimba or vibes and "Duo Sonata" for trombone and percussion, which was presented in the CU College of Music recital hall. In 2023 Geary completed four symphonies and a Missa brevis. Much of Geary's work is in the CU American Music Research Center.

Dave Murrow (AeroEngr'84) retired in 2023 after a space science mission career at NASA and in the commercial industry. He has been appointed to NASA's Planetary Science Advisory Committee, where he offers guidance on projects to explore the moon and planets. Dave writes that he still loves Colorado and "plans to camp in all of the state parks and ski at all of our state's resorts." He lives in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

'87 Journalist **Tom Costello** (Jour'87) was named NBC News senior correspondent in January. In his 20 years with NBC news, he has also served as a Washington and New York correspondent, reporting on many beats and topics.

In September, **Chris Warner** (Geog'87) became the second American to summit all 14 of the world's 8,000-meter peaks — the world's tallest mountains. Chris is a motivational speaker who uses his experiences in both mountaineering and entrepreneurship to educate people. He has contributed to two books — he wrote a chapter in *Upward Bound: Nine Original Accounts of How Business Leaders Reached Their Summits* and co-wrote *High Altitude Leadership* — and has appeared on multiple national news outlets as an expert in leadership and climbing. He lives in Denver.

'89 Shortly after graduating from CU, **Doug Leibinger** (Advert'89) moved to Aspen, Colorado. For the past 26 years, he has been involved in real estate, and eight years ago, became a founding partner of Compass Real Estate, where he works in Aspen, Snowmass and the Roaring Fork Valley. This past year, *The Wall Street Journal* and Tom Ferry Real Trends recognized Doug as the No. 72 broker in the nation out of about 1.6 million realtors. Each year, he gets together with his Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity brothers, as well as his fellow CU Buffoons alumni.

Old Main opened to students in the fall of 1877 and remains a classic campus landmark.

FIVE QUESTIONS

From the Pentagon to Colorado Higher Ed

Janine Davidson (ArchEngr'88) is president of Metropolitan State University of Denver. Prior, Davidson was appointed by former President Barack Obama as the 32nd undersecretary of the U.S. Navy. Davidson also served as an Air Force officer and was the first woman to fly the C-130 aircraft. During the 2023 Homecoming Weekend, CU Boulder awarded her the George Norlin Award for her contributions in her career and community.

How have the lessons you've learned prepared you to lead a university? At CU, I was an engineering student, Air Force ROTC cadet and a member of Greek life, which exposed me to unique people groups and leadership styles. Leading MSU Denver during the COVID-19 pandemic, I found myself tapping into my military flight training, where I learned how to stay calm in an emergency and take decisive action. I find leading a university is not unlike being a leader in the Pentagon, which built my patience for working within a large bureaucracy and an appreciation for the importance of structure and process for inclusive decision-making.

Are there any CU leadership moments that have inspired your decision-making at MSU Denver? When [past CU president] Gordon Gee came to CU Boulder and decided to live in the dorms, it reinforced his focus on students. I've said my three priorities at MSU Denver are "students, students and students," and President Gee showed me the power of always keeping students in mind.

How do you push students to become trailblazers? More than half of MSU Denver's fall 2023 class are first-generation college graduates. They already know it takes grit and perseverance to be a trailblazer. We encourage students to study what they love by giving them resources and connections. If you are passionate about something, you're more likely to be good at it. And if you're good at something, there will be room at the top!

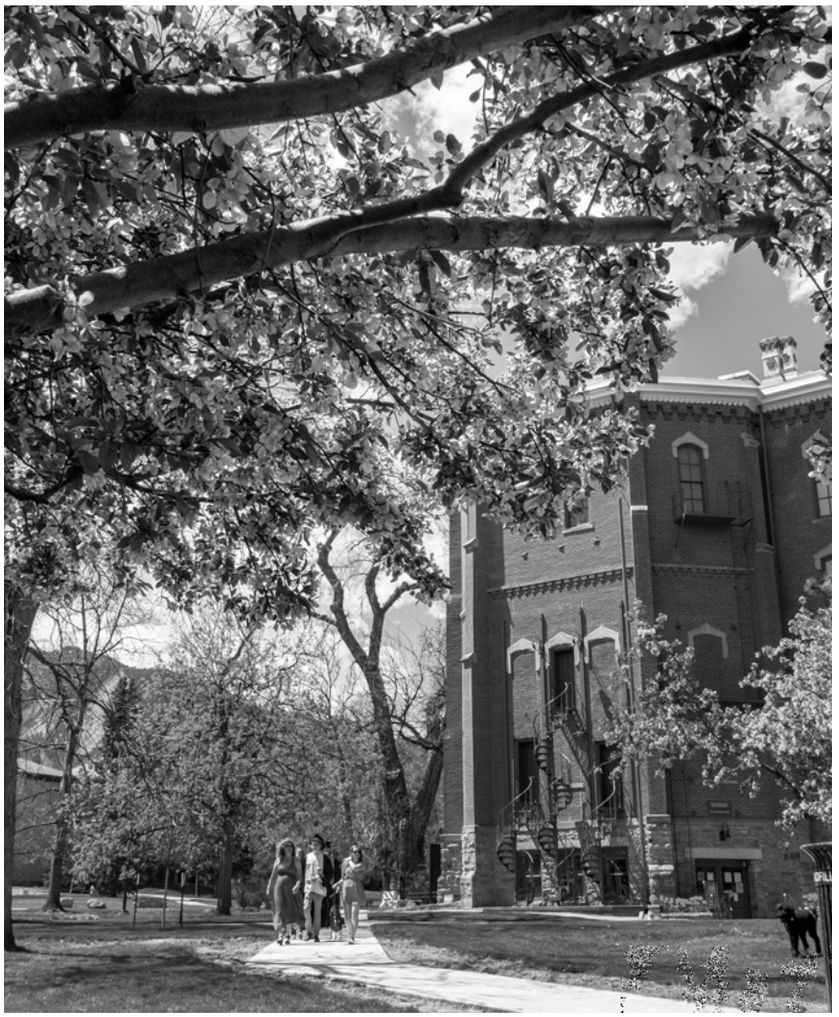
What MSU Denver initiatives have you been the most proud of? The Classroom to Career Hub ensures students leave college prepared for successful careers and has doubled the number of employers actively recruiting our students. We also implemented our Interdisciplinary Health Institute, which will prepare our students for a variety of healthcare careers while growing and diversifying Colorado's struggling healthcare workforce.

What are your goals for the future of higher education throughout Colorado? My biggest long-term goal is truly closing the equity gap for students. Many students are choosing to go to college out of state for financial purposes. We need to get more students ready for the future job market while keeping Coloradans in Colorado.

BY JESSICA SACHS (JOUR, POLSCI'26)

Casey A. Cass (left); Courtesy Janine Davidson

CLASSnotes



Springtime on the campus means beautiful, bright blossoms amid views of the Flatirons.

'90 After graduating from CU, **Christopher Arndt** (AeroEngr'90) served seven years in the Navy before attending medical school and residency at the University of New Mexico (UNM). He is now an attending anesthesiologist at UNM. Christopher was selected to be medical director for the UNM outpatient surgery center in 2009 and served in that role until 2020, when he was chosen as chair for the UNM department of anesthesiology and critical care medicine. He received his MBA last year. He, along with **Cassie Langhals** (Psych'13), opened the first master of science in anesthesia program at UNM. The program is the first of its kind in New Mexico and has a mission to serve the Southwest population.

In December **Michele Heller** (Jour'90) joined FINRA, the U.S. financial market's self-regulatory organization, as director of executive and stakeholder communications. Previously, Michele was director of strategic communications and media relations at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, and served in the Obama administration as the senior advisor for communications at the FDIC. Before transitioning into communications, Michele worked as a journalist at *The Washington Post* and other newspapers in Washington, D.C., Beijing and Hong Kong. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, two teenagers and one dog.

The city of Fort Collins honored **Gregg Osterhout** (FilmSt'90) for his "vision of troupe-focused artistry and education in co-founding Debut Theatre Company (established 1991) and commitment to theater for and by young people." Gregg lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

'91 **Gibson Smith** (Econ'91) has worked in several financial positions, including as founder and CIO of Denver's Smith Capital Investors, LLC. Gibson is passionate about asset management, security analysis, economics and finance. Gibson and **Laura Smith**'s (Intl'93) son, **Charlie Smith** (RealEs'24), will graduate from CU in May. He is a fifth-generation Forever Buff through Laura's family, a fourth-generation Forever Buff through Gibson's family, and has many Forever Buff aunts and uncles.

'92 In January, Deloitte, an audit, consulting, tax and advisory service firm, named **Melinda Yee** (Acct'92) Houston managing partner. Melinda has worked at Deloitte for more than 30 years. Prior, she served as Deloitte's central region risk and advisory leader and as its Houston risk and advisory leader. Melinda also serves as a board member for Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas, is a member of the energy transition committee for the Greater Houston Partnership, and is audit committee chair, director and trustee at the CU Foundation. She lives in Houston.

'93 **Chris Connor** (MechEngr'93) celebrated his 30th year in the semiconductor business as director of the Intel 3 and Intel 4 reliability programs, which helped enable Intel's first chiplet architecture with the company's Core Ultra processors and Intel's biggest architecture change in over 40 years. He chaired the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers International Reliability Physics Symposium — a premiere conference for engineers and scientists to present new and original work in the area of microelectronics reliability — held in Monterey, California, and serves as chair of the board. He writes that he also celebrates 30 years without drinking alcohol.

The Pew Charitable Trusts' named **Matthew Milios** (Jour'93) vice president for communications in January, where he leads digital strategy and content creation. Matthew has 25 years of experience in content production and has led creative projects at for-profit, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. He started his career as a director of photography before working in video and multimedia production for NBC News Digital and Microsoft.

'95 **Rob James** (Biochem, MCDBio'95) opened the Ramblebine Brewing Company in Grand Junction, Colorado, with a business partner in July 2020. The brewery is an integral part of the Grand Junction business community and is housed in a historic building that honors Grand Junction's past. The brewery aims to be creative in both its style and recipes. Rob lives with his wife, **Amanda Bailey James** (EPOBio'95), in Grand Junction.

'96 Last fall, astrophysicist **Will Kinney** (PhDPhys'96) released the book *An Infinity of Worlds*, which delves into the origins of the universe through a theory called cosmic inflation. Will is a professor of physics at the University of Buffalo, SUNY.

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Glenn Asakawa

'99 **Jordan Maness** (Jour, Mktg'99) is the career advising specialist in CU's Division of Continuing Education. He created a Coursera course, "Thriving 101: Designing a Fulfilling Life & Career," which is self-paced and open to anyone. He lives in Arvada, Colorado.

'00 Former magazine editor and writer **Kyle Duford** (A&S ex'00) is president and executive creative director of The Brand Leader, an online marketing and advertising agency that has worked with brands like Dr. Martens, Speck Products and KEEN Footwear. His book, *Twice Found: Getting a Second Chance at Life, Love, and Understanding God*, is a memoir of his struggle to find God while simultaneously searching for the love of his life after not seeing her for more than 20 years.

'03 Boulder's **Trevor Seelye** (Econ'03) and **Elizabeth Seelye** (Jour'02) are co-owners of Independent Power, which specializes in helping customers build plans to transition their homes, businesses and vehicles to operate with clean energy. In addition to solar and electrification projects in Boulder, Denver, the Front Range and Bozeman, Montana, Independent Power has built solar, storage, wind and hybrid systems in Rocky Mountain National Park and at military bases in the Indian Ocean.

'04 **Caroline Hult** (Engl, Hum'04) and **Elliott Hood** (Comm, PolSci'04) met 21 years ago by the pool at CU Boulder. They married 15 years ago. On Twitter, Elliott wrote, "I'm still counting my blessings and grateful for her love, support, and patience."

Genét Simone (PhDEdu'04) is academic program director for Western Washington University's teacher education outreach programs in Bremerton, Washington. She writes, "All of my experiences as a grad student in Boulder helped pave the way for supporting new candidates and mentoring them into the teaching profession. I am forever grateful for the mentoring of my professors." She is also a high school teacher. Last year, she published a memoir, *Teaching in the Dark,* about her first year as a teacher in the Arctic.

'06 *The Denver Business Journal* named **Jeremy Bloom** (A&S ex'06), co-founder and CEO of Integrate, "most admired CEO." Integrate is a marketing consulting firm passionate about connecting brands with their audiences in meaningful ways. Jeremy said, "The world doesn't stand still, and neither can we."

Last fall, **CT Charlton** (Mgmt'06) was named to the *Crain's Detroit Business* "40 Under 40" list. CT is in his third year as the president of Charlton, a global sales liaison for manufacturers that supply products for some of the world's largest automotive groups. CT left a career in finance to join Charlton in 2011, and was responsible for starting the organization's industrial division. CT held roles in Chicago and Seattle before moving to the Detroit area in 2020.

'07 **John Eric Schleicher** (PolSci'07) is a winner in the L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future Contest, which earned him a trip to Hollywood for a week-long master class workshop, an awards event and publication of his winning story in the international best-selling anthology *L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future Volume 40*. John's winning story, "Squiddy," is about an extraterrestrial invasion of squids. John lives in Missoula, Montana, with his wife and son.

'08 **Bennet Spector** (Comm'08) is the general manager of Bleacher Report. The website is focused on sports and sports culture.

Commercial real estate company Foundry Commercial hired **Jeff Stephens** (Psych'08) as senior vice president. He is based in the firm's Raleigh office.

'09 Denver's Polsinelli law firm named **Graham P.B. Boswell** (Econ'09) shareholder. Graham focuses his practice in areas including energy, real estate development, energy transactions and clean energy project development.

FIVE QUESTIONS

Unlocking Doors for All Students

As senior director of marketing and communications at the Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF), **Olivia Omega** (Bus'01) is an inclusion and diversity advocate within higher education. Omega is a TedX speaker and author of *Beautifully Branded: The Girl's Guide to Understanding the Anatomy of Brand You.* During Homecoming Weekend in November 2023, the CU Boulder Alumni Association recognized her with the Alumni Recognition Award.

What does being a part of DSF mean to you? I was raised by a single mom, and in high school I didn't know if I could even attend college, simply because of the financial commitment. If it weren't for the scholarships I received through CU, I wouldn't have been able to attend. I want others to have that same opportunity to step into whatever their purpose is.

Why is representation in spaces like higher education so important? As human beings we gravitate toward what is familiar, and we see ourselves in other people. Even thinking back to when President Obama was first elected, my daughter was three years old at the time and commented, "Look at that family. They look like us." We know that visualizing and manifesting is powerful, so when you see people who look like you achieving something great, you can start to look and emulate that.

Race-conscious affirmative action ended last year. How does this affect DSF? DSF scholarships are more important now than ever. We're helping mostly first-generation students of color whose parents didn't go to college navigate the application process, the financial aid process, making sure that school is affordable and also making sure that they get to college and graduate as well.

What is it like returning as a President's Leadership Class (PLC) mentor? I get to meet with students often, and I have quite a few mentees who I work with. I can honestly attribute every opportunity in my life to either CU or I can track it back to PLC. It is also about making sure that there is representation and that young women and students of color see themselves at CU and that they see themselves as thriving alumni.

How have you seen CU Boulder change since you were a student? I have hopes for some really great things coming out of CU. At Leeds, for the first time ever, it's 55% women. When I was there, I want to say it was maybe half that. If we can get to a place where the systemic barriers to education are dismantled, and there is more access, more funding, tuition isn't skyrocketing every year — if those things are eliminated, then there's no need for DSF. Wouldn't that be the greatest thing — where things have changed so much that the work we do to increase equity isn't even needed?

BY KIARA DEMARE (JOUR'24)

Courtesy Olivia Omega

CLASSnotes

Springtime on the campus means beautiful, bright blossoms amid views of the Flatirons.

'11 Hannah Goodman (Psych'11) graduated with a PhD in chemistry from the University of Arizona in December 2023. Her thesis, completed in the lab of professor Robin Polt, describes the synthesis and evaluation of glycosylated oxytocin analogues for treating pain and substance use disorders. She is currently defining the pharmacological signature of iboga alkaloids for treating substance use disorders and other psychopathology as a postdoctoral research scientist at Columbia University in professor Dalibor Sames' lab.

'13 After graduating from CU, **Cassie Langhals** (Psych'13) received her master's of medical science in anesthesia from South University in 2016 and began working at the University of New Mexico (UNM) as a certified anesthesiologist assistant. In 2020, she received her master's of educational leadership from UNM, and in December she graduated with her doctorate of education in health science education from the University of St. Augustine. In 2019 she took on the role as clinical coordinator for the UNM department of anesthesiology and critical care medicine, and last July she became the inaugural program director for the first master of science in anesthesia program at UNM, which she opened with **Christopher Arndt** (AeroEngr'90). The program is the first of its kind in New Mexico and has a mission to serve the Southwest population.

Julie Surfus (ChemBioEngr'13) and **Jeff Willich** (Fin'13) met at a football watch party for Houston alumni in 2014. In September 2023, the two were married in Boulder, coincidentally on the same day as the Rocky Mountain Showdown. They co-lead the Houston chapter of Forever Buffs.

'14 Ally Chapel (ArtHist'14) lives in New York City, where she started an all-female, nine-piece New Orleans style brass band called Brass Queens. She writes she adopted the colors black and gold for her band in CU's honor. The band's 2023 album is called *Black & Gold*, and Ally wrote the title track as an anthem fully from the perspective of a CU fan. In December, the band toured through Colorado. She writes that she "co-founded the band, dedicated to showcasing the talents of female musicians, in 2019 as a way to disrupt a landscape that was dominated by male musicians and bandleaders." The band has played iconic venues like Blue Note Jazz Club and major events like the Met Gala, Governors Ball Music Festival and Exit Zero Jazz Festival and made TV appearances on *Good Morning America.*

'15 Audiologist **Kenzie Phillips Reichert** (SLHSci'15) gave a TEDx Talk in September 2023 on the subject of hearing loss and dementia and the relationship between the two conditions. Kenzie founded an online-accessible audiology practice, Hear Lab Clinic, which empowers individuals to put their hearing first. Read more about her in the Q&A on page 57 of this issue.

'16 Anisha Lamsal (EnvEngr'16; MS'19), born and raised in Nepal, is founder and CEO of the Bahini Education Project, a nonprofit which aims to educate and empower young women in rural Nepal while helping them reach their educational and career goals and teach them leadership skills. In addition to her role with the nonprofit, she works full time as an environmental engineer at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, where she designs drinking water treatment systems and conducts research on desalination.

'18 Alejandro Brown (IntlAf'18) is the founder of I-70 Things, a page on Instagram (@i70things) with more than 400,000 followers. Some of the account serves as entertainment and some content is safety-oriented for those traveling the I-70 corridor through the Colorado mountains. "I wanted to be able to provide an outlet for people to not only share what they've seen, but also check it out before they go to the mountains or before they come home," Alejandro told *The Denver Post* in January.

'19 Indigo Fischer (Mus'19) is the artistic operations manager at The Music Academy of the West, based in Santa Barbara, California. Her role is focused on supporting

CU COUPLE JULIE SURFUS AND JEFF WILLICH MET AT A FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY FOR HOUSTON FOREVER BUFFS IN 2014. THEY MARRIED IN BOULDER IN SEPTEMBER 2023.

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Write the editors at Koenig Alumni Center, Boulder, CO 80309, or editor@colorado.edu.

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"ex" indicates a nondegree and the year of expected graduation.

Glenn Asakawa

the academy's annual summer festival and year-round programming, which includes coordinating the logistics of guest artists, creating the festival schedule and helping produce over 120 master classes, concerts and competitions each summer. She told the CU College of Music in an interview last fall: "I had such an amazing undergrad and am so grateful for my time in Boulder. I miss the Flatirons, the farmers market, but mostly the community at the College of Music — I can't wait to visit!"

PAYTON LEGGETT RESKIN CO-CREATED THE APP NATURE'S PLAYBOOK, WHICH SERVES AS A SPACE FOR NATURE LOVERS TO UPLOAD PHOTOS, VIDEOS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE OUTDOORS TO HELP OTHERS CONNECT WITH NATURE.

'20 At 15 years old, **Peyton Leggett Reskin** (Mgmt'20) worked with racehorses and loved the lifestyle of being outside while traveling the country. While at CU, Peyton focused on entrepreneurship, which led her to co-create the app Nature's Playbook with her mother. Today, Peyton and her husband live in a van with their young sons and travel the country. Relkin hopes that the Nature's Playbook app — which serves as a space for nature lovers to upload photos, videos and information about the outdoors — becomes a tool for others to get outside and connect with nature.

'23 *About Boulder.com* honored **Bennett Black** (Fin'23) with the Entrepreneur of the Year award for his achievements in the digital marketing industry. Bennett founded Bold Slate, a firm that offers comprehensive services including custom website design, search engine optimization and paid lead generation. Bennett's innovative approach has revolutionized the way home service businesses establish their online presence, generate leads and build customer trust.

Old Main opened to students in the fall of 1877 and remains a classic campus landmark.

FIVE QUESTIONS

All Ears

Kenzie Phillips Reichert (SLHSci'15) is an audiologist who gave a TEDx Talk in September 2023 at TEDxBreckenridge raising awareness about the connection between two conditions: hearing loss and dementia. Passionate about the tangible impact of improved hearing, she founded an online-accessible audiology practice, Hear Lab Clinic, which empowers individuals to put their hearing first.

How has your time at CU influenced your career? I discovered my tinnitus through my hearing science courses at CU. This is also where my interest in audiology developed. I shadowed different audiologists and had the opportunity to do newborn hearing screenings.

Why are you passionate about hearing education? Your ears don't bounce back. They are a delicate system and there is no cure for hearing loss. Most people aren't taught how to take care of their hearing. It's important to start early and educate children.

What is the key to building healthy hearing habits? Be mindful and have awareness. If you are going to a loud environment, bring hearing protection. And if possible, distance yourself from the main noise source or leave early.

How has your life changed since you began wearing a hearing device? Previously with my tinnitus, I always had to pretend it wasn't there. Now, I feel normal again. The stigma around hearing devices causes hesitation for people to get the treatment they need. However, when I share my experience, they feel like they can do it, too.

What is one takeaway you'd like alumni to walk away with? Be an advocate for yourself. Less than 20% of primary care physicians will ask about your hearing in a regular checkup. Hearing loss hurts your ability to connect with your loved ones and your balance, and it increases your chances for dementia and depression. Be proactive before it is too late. **INTERVIEW BY CHRISTINA FANG (PSYCH, SOC'21)**

Casey A. Cass (left); Courtesy Kenzie Phillips Reichert

INmemoriam

To report a death, email advancement.datamanagement@cu.edu or write Data Management, 1800 Grant St., Suite 215, Denver, CO 80203. Please include date of death and other relevant information.

1940s

Evelyn Adkinson Hayes (MedTech'43)
Frances J. Dias (Hist'45)
Phyllis Verploeg Hutchins (Bus'45)
Ben L. Morton (CivEngr'46)
John E. Sterling Jr. (A&S'46)
Maryln Stephenson Andrews (Edu'47)
Nanette Sampter Missel (Edu'47)
Mildred P. Oppenheimer (A&S'47)
Laurence R. Soderberg (MAero-Engr'47)
John W. VanCamp (AeroEngr'47)
Robert W. Anderson (Law'48)
Hugh C. Fowler (Mgmt'48)
Louise Price Giersch (ChemEngr'48)
Doris Wilder Hallgren (Geol'48)
Simon J. Kalish (DistSt'48)
Harold B. Meyers (Jour'48)
Jane Wainscott Skogman (DistSt'48)
Robert P. Edwards (MechEngr'49)
Edith Harms Evans (BusEdu'49)
Ida Frances Marshall (Jour'49)
Katherine Parmelee Race (Mus'49; MA'51)
Donald B. Parsons (A&S'49)
Mary Peterson Patterson (DistSt'49)
Calvin M. Theiss (ElEngr'49)

1950s

Arline Pasternack Cohen (Soc'50)
Richard J. Daly (ChemEngr'50)
John M. Reed (Fin, MechEngr'50)
Joseph B. Roberts (MA&S'50)
Marjory Cooper Theiss (Acct'50)
Duane M. Tollefson (Mktg'50)
Frederick E. Wawrose (Chem'50)
David T. Appleton (ElEngr'51)
Viola Wennerstrum Butler (Bus'51)
Laurence W. DeMuth Jr. (A&S'51; Law'53)
Elinor Thomas Guinn (BFA'51)
Robert P. LeMarr (A&S'51)
Joanne Healy Sesson (DistSt'51; MA'56)
Prudence Peacock Walker (BFA'51)
Clayton F. Brown (PolSci'52)
Donald E. Kemper (Mgmt'52)
Sue Birk Oertli (Edu'52)
Jack E. Smith (Hist'52)
Maynard C. Skinner (PE'52; MEdu'54; PhD'63)
Janet Frei Stolz (A&S'52)
James B. Vogler (Mgmt'52)
Dean E. Boal (Mus, MusEdu'53; DMus'59)
Dorothy Riefenberg Bush (A&S'53)
Nancy Smith Clark (CommDisor'53)
Elizabeth Baker DesCombes (DistSt'53)
Merle Heitman Harrison (Psych'53)
Frederic Hills (MechEngr'53)
Walter H. Miner (Engl'53)
Nancy Wrenn Pollard (Med-Tech'53)
Richard H. Sampson (Acct'53)
Bonnie Jorgensen Stone (HomeEcon'53)
Bonnie Murray Ivans (Edu'54)
Earle O. Meyer (A&S'54)
Jean Ashburn Patterson (Engl'54)
William R. Thrall (MPE'54)
Justyn L. Graham (MEdu'55)
Robert D. Hackworth (Jour'55; MMath'61)
Bonnie J. Johnston (Soc'55)
Allan E. Lackner (Advert'55)
Billy W. Quante (CivEngr'55)
Mary W. Salopek (PE'55)
John D. Vickery (PE'55)
Robert C. Wolfe (MusEdu'55)
Suzanne Sparn Bundy (Math'56)
James C. Campbell Jr. (Econ'56)
Laura Duke Determan (HomeEcon'56)
Beatrice Moroney Hadinger (A&S'56)
David H. Holmes (CivEngr'56)
Ursula Brylski Morrison (Bus'56)
William L. Munns (MPE'56)
Randall W. Peterson (ChemEngr'56)
Virginia Baker Reed (A&S'56)
Betty Lindberg Skipp (MGeol'56; PhD'85)
Alvin L. Swanson Jr. (Fin'56)
Merrill R. Talpers (Law'56)
Mary Jones Trice (Edu'56; MA'63)
JoAnne Sterling Avery (HomeEcon'57)
Robert C. Bauer (A&S'57)
Ronald D. Brodsky (Law'57)
Ernest F. Clifton (Acct'57)
William A. Futris (Pharm'57)
Peggy Gaalaas Johnson (Bus'57)
Dorothea L. Jones (PolSci'57)
Donald L. Pottratz (MA&S'57)
Ruth Weeks Sparling (Bus'57)
Jane Roudebush Speckman (A&S'57)
Donald W. Ulrich (Chem'57)
Robert D. Wood (Mgmt'57)
Albert R. Burge (MechEngr'58)
John C. Crane (Acct'58)
Anson Mark (MGeol'58)
Kathryn Roerig Moore (A&S'58)
David L. Obitts (EngrPhys'58)
Clifford W. Trow (MHist'58; PhD'66)
Wendell E. Westenburg (Acct'58)
Joan Wilson Zink (A&S'58)
Patricia Smith Ewen (PE'59)
Richard C. Hepworth (Geol'59)
James C. Hobart III (MPubAd'59)
James P. Johnson (Law'59)
James B. Moody (MechEngr'59)
Sonnie J. Perkins (ArchEngr'59)
Anne Shrednik Vickery (PolSci'59; MGeog'78)
Roger A. Welchans (MFA'59)

1960s

William B. Burleigh (PolSci'60)
Edward M. Cutler (MA&S'60)
Marjoree M. Howard (MA&S'60)
Mary M. Kimble (Acct'60)
Floyd D. Pantier (Acct'60)
Mary Lyon Protheroe (A&S'60)
Homer A. Scott Jr. (CivEngr, Mgmt'60)
James C. Shafer (A&S'60)
Robert Henry Sonheim (Law'60)
Stanley L. Staubach (ElEngr'60)
Bob F. Turner (Law'60)
Sandra Click Walling (Spch'60; MA'62)
Virgil Lewis Black (ElEngr, Fin'61)
Donald A. Coates (Geol'61; MS'64)
Guy V. Ferry (MA&S'61)
Gary W. Flebbe (PE'61; MS'64)
Kent B. Hickman (A&S'61)
Catherine Matteson Hornor (A&S'61)
Charles G. Kristenson (ElEngr'61)
William D. Krug (MEdu'61)
Peter A. Matter (Geol'61)
John E. McSweeny (MElEngr'61)
Roberta Anderson Menefee (Soc'61)
Mark Meredith (BFA'61; MA'67; PhDEdu'77)
Sheila Dendahl Quijada (A&S'61)
Susan Ransom Rammelt (Hist'61)
Bonnie Watson Tosi (A&S'61)
Joseph E. Vlastos (A&S'61)
Donald A. Wallace (A&S'61)
James C. Anderson (MEdu'62)
Helen Schneider Cozzie (Acct'62)
Sharon Fowler Fain (A&S'62)
Larry K. Simoneau (PE'62)
Roger G. Bredine (A&S'63)
William F. Brunner (A&S'63)
Theodore C. Connors Jr. (MMechEngr'63)
Janet Bartlett Kingdom (Edu'63)
Barbara Brinser Maniha (BFA'63)
Arthur T. Sutherland Jr. (DistSt'63)
Glen C. Talcott (ElEngr'63)
John A. Tomsick (ChemEngr'63)
Betty Ann Burick (Edu'64; MA'74)
Roger P. Burpee (Math'64)
Janet J. Fritz (Psych'64)
Thomas A. Hine (A&S'64)
Paul D. Gilkison (PhDBus'64)
Samuel R. Jones Jr. (ElEngr'64)
James M. Kelly (Geol'64; MS'67)
Eldon L. Kirby (Fin'64)
Richard A. Laughlin (Edu'64; MPerMgmt; PhD'Edu'73)
John E. Morris (Acct'64)
John J. Stamm Jr. (CivEngr'64)
Stephen N. Berkowitz (Acct'65)
Richard P. Coffey (ElEngr'65)
Thomas L. Dutcher (Fin'65)
Kenneth L. Giberson Jr. (Mgmt'65)
Jo Anne Blower Lamun (MA&S'65)
Sandra Lovin McHenry (PolSci'65)
Roger S. Rhodes (MA&S'65)
Donald M. Snow (PolSci'65; MA'67)
Ann Lowrey Yeager (A&S'65)
Pamela Schroeder Botts (A&S'66)
William T. Burgess (Bus'66; MBA'67)
Keith L. Carmichael (Edu'66; PhD'77)
Mary-Margaret Hepp Coates (MGeol'66)
Robert P. Franch (Mktg'66)
Kenneth A. Jones (AeroEngr'66)
Carter M. Koles (MechEngr'66)
Dorothy R. Sease (MEdu'66; PhD'79)
James R. Erickson (Law'67)
Thomas P. Garrison (AeroEngr'67; MS'68)
Travis H. Hughes (PhDGeol'67)
Thomas C. Kuhn II (Mgmt'67)
Lawrence T. Lehnerz (Mktg'67)
Roger D. Martin (A&S'67; MA'69; PhDSpan'74)
Suzanne P. McDaniel (BFA'67)
Patricia Huggins Moore (MPerSer'67)
Chour C. Pang (PhDElEngr'67)
Louis H. Roehm (MCivEngr'67)
Louis P. Rottman (Mgmt'67)
Michael B. Cutlip (PhDChemEngr'68)
Ernest E. Kaska (Zool'68)
Jan F. Kreider (MMechEngr'68; PhDChemEngr'73)
Leonard E. McKinster (Law'68)
Edgar G. Distel Munro (Mgmt'68)
Avery Hunter Bevin (MEngl'69)
Glenn M. Burnham (Edu'69)
Charles E. Fagan (Engl'69)
Ralph R. Falce (AeroEngr'69)
Marlin R. Gengenbach (Mktg'69)
Philip C. Heinicke (Law'69)
Roy F. Hill (MPE'69)
Faith Brecto Larsen (MBtny'69)
Robert M. Maher (BFA'69; MA'73)
Richard O. Michael (A&S'69)
Kathleen Collins Nicol (Fren'69)

1970s

Paul P. Constans (Bus'70)
Laren Fielding Empey (MPubAd'70)
Arnold J. Farstad (MElEngr'70)
Leroy M. May (MBus'70)
Manfred P. Schwoch (A&S'70)
Gary R. Silverman (Law'70)
Jean McLarty Tidball (MMath'70)
Walter R. Colligan (Mktg'71)
George J. Constantine (Mus'71; PhD'92)
Nancy Clinton Foster (Jour'71)
Bonnie C. Gibson (Eng'71)
Maurice Mendelsohn (Econ'71)
J. Bill Moschetti (Stat'71)
Lyle H. VanHorn (Anth'71)
John M. Banman (Law'72)
James G. Banman (MBA'72)
Mark Vinson Jacobson (EPOBio'72; Fin'00)
Nancy Irwin Levitt (Engl'72)
David J. Odell (Bio'72)
William Plywaski (PhDAstroPhys'72)
Claudia Schalk Short (Engl'72)
Guy Wolfinger (Anth'72)
Georgia L. Clouse (CommThtr'73)
Diane J.D. Hammerberg (Soc'73)
Janet Heitzer Littlefield (Engl'73)
John R. Matelock (Geol'73)
Kelly K. Matthews (PhDEcon'73)
Suzann Miyamoto Palmquist (A&S'73)
Daniel L. Sandoval (Psych'73; MBA'76)
Marty Smith (Psych'73)
Timothy P. Watson (Acct'73)
R. Ronald Weber (Mktg'73)
Diane Snider Witt (Edu'73; MA'88)
Joan L. Lawson (Edu'74)
Lynn Thorpe McAllister (MArt'74)
Kevin L. McNeill (Math'74)
Steven J. Payne (Arch'74)
Steve D. Sander (Jour'74)
Clinton Woodrow Bratton Jr. (PhDEngl'75)
Christine B. Blair (MEdu'76)
Janice M. Miesing (Art'76)
Maria V. Nuci (Span'76)
Vivian Pearlman (Psych'76)
Joan Kleczewski (Rec'77)
Allen M. Perry (Geog'77)
Eric T. Tormoen (Mktg'77)
Gary J. Whipple (Edu'77)
Marshall D. Brodsky (Law'78)
Danny W. Burton (Law'78)
Laura J. Reed (Psych'78)
Edward L. Thurber (Fin'78)
Howard G. Williams (Engl'78)
Brian E. Grossman (Engl'79)
Barbara Koret Levin (MEdu'79; PhD'86)
Joanne Bartelma Little (Hist'79)
Annie M. Richardson (BFA'79)
Margo I. Toth (MGeol'79; PhD'83)

1980s

Paul W. Cherry (PhDMus'80)
Victor M. Thomas (Bus'81)
Fredric B. Zuckerman (MechEngr'81)
Kelly A. Crowther (EnvDes'83)
Pervez Tahir (MEcon'82)
Rodney M. Richards (PhDChem'84)
Karen Annalora (Fin'85)
Andrew R. Morss (PolSci'86)
Tim M. Hogan (DistSt'87)
Jennifer Lindstrom (Ital'88)
Martin L. Spahn (Fren'89)

1990s

Scott A. Kaufman (Mus'90)
William E. Badger IV (Comm'91)
Dan C. Daly (Law'92)
Michael T. Larson (A&S'92)
Robert B. Nelson (PhdEdu'92)
Jennifer A. Turner-Valle (EngrPhys'92)
James R. Barker (PhDComm'93)
Walter F. Ackerman (MAcct'95)
Michelle A. McKinley (Psych'96)
Anderson B. Page (Engl'96)
Alison Van Vooren Lasel (MEdu'97)
James W. Avril Jr. (Comm'98)
Morgan Budde (EnvSt'98)
Gregory W. Farrell (Engl'98)
Gregory A. Fugate (MPolSci'98)
Jessie C. Dixon (Mktg'99)

2000s

Ronald E. Cossman (PhDGeog'01)
Syed A. Ali (RelSt'02)
Stanley E. Anderson (MBA'04)
Jason D. Gillum (MCDBio'07)
Eric W. Keary (CompSci'08)
Connie A. King (MBA'08)
Brett D. Luben (Soc'08)
Cameron M. Casey (EthnSt'09)

2010s

Kristopher Taylor (Fin'10)
Benjamin M. Pollack (MusEdu'14)
Thomas Oliver (IntPhys'19)

2020s

Kurt E.Smolker (Soc'20)
Jacob S. Petteway (Phil'21)
Andrew J. Cunningham (BioChem ex'23)
Alexander Louis Dupont (Psych ex'23)
Destro Trujillo (EngrPhys ex'23)
Christen D. Courter (PhDChem ex'24)
Finn T. Fox (ExplSt ex'27)
Daniel H. Xiao (ExplSt ex'27)

Faculty, Staff and Friends

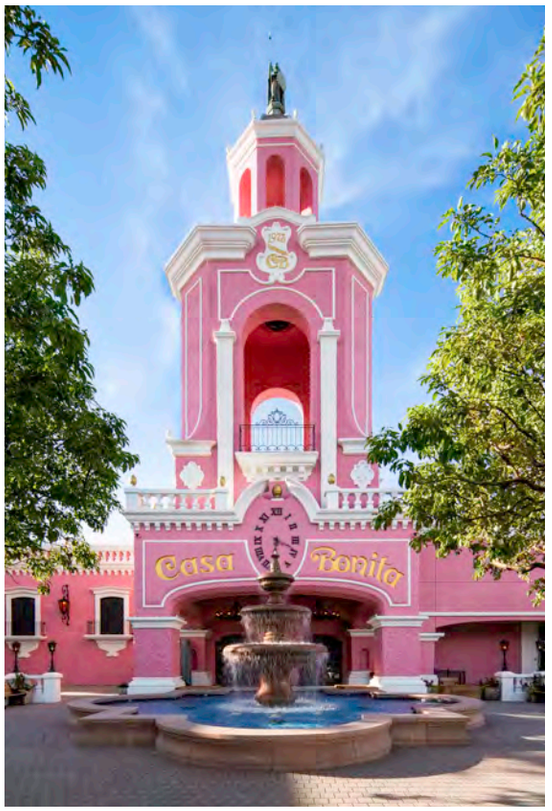
Kenneth W. Brubaker, University Faculty and Staff Club
Ramona Castillo, Housing and Dining
Larry Zimmer, "Voice of the Buffaloes"

FEEDback

Casa Bonita Musings

$40 million? We could build a new health clinic for outpatient care, with a welcoming building, a diagnostic testing laboratory, an X-ray department, a pharmacy, plenty of examination rooms with bright lights for the doctors, physicians assistants, nurses and patients, conference rooms and staff offices, a comfortable sunshine-filled waiting room, plus all of the equipment needed, large and small, down to the last bottle of rubbing alcohol and canister of fluffy white cotton balls, for $40 million. Just sayin'.

Nancy McCurdy
(Mktg'90)
Denver, Colorado



Trey Parker and Matt Stone bought Casa Bonita in Lakewood, Colorado, in 2021. After renovations, it opened last year.

The current edition of the *Coloradan* features an article about **Trey Parker** (DistSt'18) and **Matt Stone**'s (FilmSt, Math'93) acquisition, renovation and relaunch of Casa Bonita. The article states Mr. Stone as having earned degrees in math and art. This is not accurate: Mr. Stone earned degrees in math (BA) and a BFA in film studies (currently "cinema studies & moving image arts"). We proudly list Mr. Stone as one of our alumni, and would really like to see a correction in your online issue and in your next print issue. The readers of the *Coloradan* should have accurate news and information about the institution that they so much love and support, and the individual departments should be acknowledged properly.

Ernesto R Acevedo-Muñoz
Professor, Chair, CU Boulder Department of Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts
Boulder

[Editor's Note: We have updated Matt Stone's degree information to reflect his film studies degree.]

Our readers also sounded off on social media about the 2023 Casa Bonita renovation:

They did a really great job with the restoration. The food is worth the price, and the entertainment is top-notch.

Eric Anhold
(PolSci'00)
Via Facebook

Yay for Matt and Trey and saving Casa Bonita! Always enjoyed it as a kid.

Susan Schlatter
(Psych'93)
Via Facebook

Fantastic alumni story.

Chris Rockne
(MechEngr'07; MS'07)
Via Facebook

Letters edited for length and clarity. Read more at colorado.edu/coloradan.

Courtesy Casa Bonita

During my four years at CU (1990–94), I recall on several occasions walking past the fine arts building on the way to the UMC from my dorm at Cheyenne Arapaho. I'd see the students on the grass, and I arrogantly thought to myself — "what a bunch of suckers studying art." Not long after graduating, I learned that two of those actual "suckers" were the geniuses behind the show I was then obsessed with: *South Park*. I got such a kick out of realizing how stupid I was back then, and I still tell that story to anyone who foolishly tries to reduce someone's path. Shout out to CU fine arts. And shout out to Matt and Trey for repping the Buffs as good as anyone ever did.

@themiket
Via Instagram

This is so awesome for me — a reminder of fond trips to Casa as a family when I was young, and then even sweetened as I remember reading Matt and Trey's cartoons when I was at Boulder during the same time.

@carterasc5
Via Instagram

The Tiny Hill Diner

It was with something of a shock I opened the fall issue of the *Coloradan* and saw the photograph of the little diner that sat just across Pennsylvania Street opposite The Sink. For years I have interrogated friends and acquaintances, even Boulder history writers, in search of someone else who remembers this diner. At some point, it simply vanished. I had begun to think of it as a will o' the wisp.

But here is the *Twilight Zone* part: Contrary to the account in the *Coloradan*, I could not have eaten there prior to the summer of '63, which was when I came to Boulder, and I remember it being the Buff Top Hat Diner.

Now if I can only find someone else who remembers Bennet's Brick Oven.

Earl Noe
(Jour'66)
Boulder

Ceramicist Betty Woodman attended an alum's wedding reception in 1970.

A Gift from Betty Woodman

I worked for Betty Woodman [Origins, Fall 2023], and she gave me a very large teapot at my wedding reception that she attended. I have a photo of her at my reception which would have been about 1970.

Marie McCreery
(A&S'67)
Niwot, Colorado

From Casa Bonita to Star Trek

Lovely job — thank you. I really enjoyed your stories on the remodeling and new ownership of Casa Bonita, and on the science advisor for *Star Trek*.

Sabrina Sideris
(Engl, Hist'00)
Niwot, Colorado

Are We Ready for Self-Driving Cars?

In reference to the Fall 2023 article "Is the World Ready for Self-Driving Cars?," an image by Sam Gross from page 21 of *Everyone's a Critic: The Ultimate Cartoon Book* edited by Bon Eckstein.

Ernst Anton Kemper
(ChemEngr'59)
Lakewood, Colorado

Ernst Anton Kemper thought of this image when reading about AI.

Sam Gross Courtesy Marie McCreery

A son's prank to his mom: A *Coloradan* shower curtain.

Coloradan Shenanigans

I'd like to share my recent experience regarding the alumni magazine. My son **Page** (CivEngr'05; MS'15) and I are both CU graduates, so we're both on your list to receive the *Coloradan*. However, for many years his copy has come to my address. I asked him to notify you of this but he couldn't be bothered. So, every time it comes, I hand off his copy, usually in a batch of articles I've curated for him from magazines and newspapers. When I hand him one of these envelopes, he goes through it, surreptitiously or blatantly, and when he finds the *Coloradan* he sneaks it back into my stuff, under the windshield wiper or slipped through a cracked-open window of my car. We've played this game a *looong* time.

But this Christmas he took it to the next level. When I visited, he told me to sit down and close my eyes. When he said I could look, there was the cover of the Fall 2023 *Coloradan* on a shower curtain. Of course, it was his copy, with his name and my address. We laughed and laughed, after which I was left wondering, "How do I top *this*?"

Clearly, the only way to go one better is to have you print the shower curtain pic in your next issue, and to update his listing to his address!

Without silliness, we are all doomed.

Nancy Ball Weil (Russ'77)
Denver

CU's First Female Olympians

I'd like to offer a fact check and possible correction on page 65 of the Fall *Coloradan.*

According to my research, CU ski coach Bob Beattie took over the U.S. ski team in 1962. He created a de facto national training center at CU and most of the men and women lived in Boulder and went to CU. Some were down the road at DU and some not in college, and at least one was too young and went to high school in Boulder. About this time of year they would take "incompletes" in their classes and head to Europe to race, then come back and continue classes in the spring. They also trained at Eldora and on St. Mary's Glacier. In the spring of 1963, that CU/U.S. program became the core of the 1964 Olympic team. Again Boulder was the epicenter, and most of the team that went to the Innsbruck Games were full or part-time CU students. So, this leads me to believe the note in the *Coloradan* about **Sandy Hildner** (A&S'67) ["THEN," Fall 2023] might not be accurate.

I was on the B team in 1976, did some pro skiing, then helped with the CU skiing program working for then-head coach Tim Hinderman. Later I worked for filmmaker Warren Miller and have been involved in the ski industry in various ways ever since. This includes occasional writing gigs.

David Butterfield (Hum'81)
Ketchum, Idaho

[Editor's Note: Further research shows that while Sandy Hildner was among CU's first female Olympians, she was not necessarily the first. We regret the reporting error.]

Social Buffs

Letter sweaters aren't just for football. Go Buffs! 🏀🦬💛🖤 @alexispmurphy

Celebrating with you as you make those big college decisions! Go Buffs! @bashboardcandyco

Colorado Football may be done for the season but this dime stays committed to the Buffs. @thenotoriousadv

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STAFFBOX

Coloradan

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Coloradan aims to inform, inspire and foster community among alumni, friends and admirers of the University of Colorado Boulder, and to engage them in the life of the university. We strive to practice inclusive storytelling in every aspect of the publication. Our goal is to uplift and share stories that represent a wide range of CU Boulder experiences while working to develop a deeper sense of belonging for all involved with the university.

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Courtesy Nancy Ball Weil

THEN

OCTOBER 1998

"I don't think I'll ever see anything like that again."

In an October 1998 *Coloradan* interview, iconic sports commentator Larry Zimmer shared his favorite CU Buffaloes play to date — the Sept. 24,1994 "Miracle in Michigan," where quarterback **Kordell Stewart** (Comm ex'95; BA'16) threw a game-winning 64-yard Hail Mary pass to **Michael Westbrook** (Comm ex'94) in Michigan Stadium.

Zimmer saw much more excitement from there. The Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee served as "The Voice of the Buffaloes" for 42 seasons, which included 486 CU football games and 525 men's basketball games. He called his last game in 2015.

Zimmer died Jan. 20, 2024 at the age of 88.

"His voice was synonymous with our athletic program, and he was most beloved by our coaches, players and fans," said athletic director Rick George. "He is truly a part of our overall athletic history."

Cliff Grassmick/Heritage Center, ***Coloradan*** Collection